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BY

R. L. P. JOWITT

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CONTENTS

Acknowledgements 6

Architecture 7

List of Routes 16

Key to Hotel Classification 19

Abbreviations 19

Definitions of Architectural Terms 19

Berkshire and Oxfordshire: A Short Survey 21
SCENERY – WALKING – ANTIQUITIES – ARCHITECTURE – HISTORY – CELEBRITIES – INDUSTRIES

I Oxford and its Neighbourhood 33
OXFORD – WALKS FROM OXFORD – THE CHERWELL VALLEY – BLENHEIM AND WOODSTOCK – WITNEY – BAMPTON – THE WHITE HORSE VALE – THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS – ABINGDON – WALLINGFORD – DORCHESTER – THAME – THE CHILTERN FOOTHILLS – THE OTMOOR COUNTRY

II North Oxfordshire 117
BANBURY – EDGEHILL – THE ROLLRIGHT STONES – CHIPPING NORTON

III West Oxfordshire 141
BURFORD – MINSTER LOVELL – WYCHWOOD FOREST – THE UPPER THAMES

IV S.W. Berkshire 155
NEWBURY – THE LAMBOURN VALLEY – THE HAMPSHIRE BORDER – SILCHESTER – READING

V The Oxfordshire Chilterns, and the Middle Thames 181

HENLEY-ON-THAMES – GORING AND STREATLEY – COOKHAM – MAIDENHEAD

VI Windsor Castle and East Berkshire 203

WINDSOR CASTLE – ASCOT – THE FOREST OF WINDSOR – BRAY

MAPS AND PLANS

Town Plans of Oxford and Reading, p. 114-115
Atlas of ½-inch colour maps between pp. 128 and 129

*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my most sincere thanks for much help and kindly interest to my friend Mr L. Russell Muirhead, who formerly edited this series of guide-books. He is the author of the useful section (Route 23) entitled 'Chiltern Walks.' To him and to Miss J. Hitchcox, who did these walks in order to supply me with the information, I am extremely grateful. My thanks are due to my wife for considerable help with the typing.

R. L. P. JOWITT.

December, 1948.

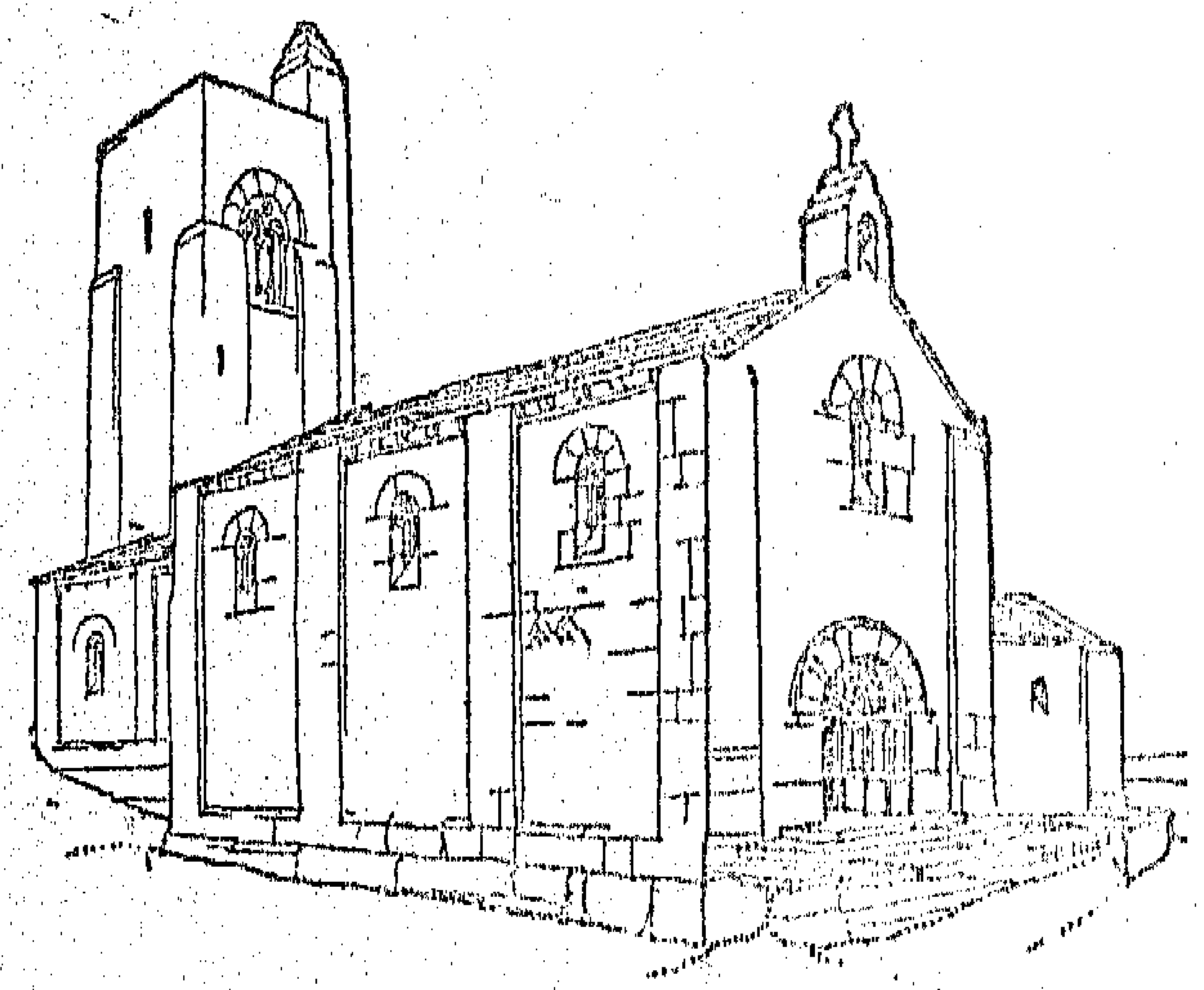
ARCHITECTURE

Churches, cathedrals, old manor houses, great eighteenth-century mansions, farmhouses and barns, the streets and alley-ways of the tiniest villages or of the cities – all these are part and parcel of the beauty and interest of our island. If we know how to look at these streets and buildings then their sometimes unbelievable beauty, as well as the fascination of a history of which we ourselves are but the latest chapter, are both ours for the asking.

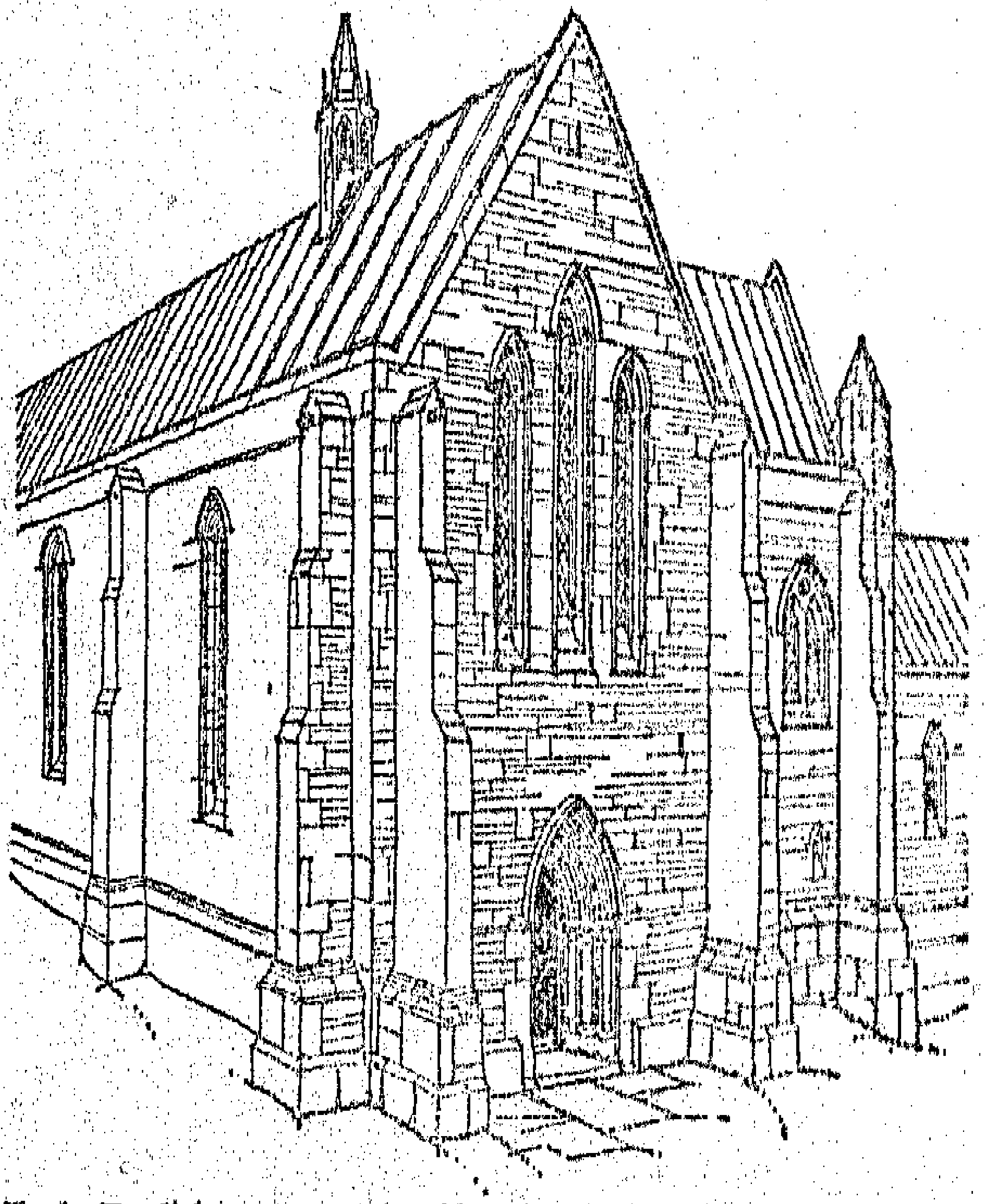
We can look at buildings in many ways. There is the point of view of the archaeologist – how old is it? No doubt it is of interest to know whether three or thirty generations have passed since the mason's trowel first laid that mortar; but age in itself has no intrinsic merit, a building is not more beautiful, its builders not more vital to our history merely because of the passing of time. A date in itself is nothing; it is the humanity behind the stones that matters.

A proper sense of historical background is vital to our understanding and enjoyment. What was England really like when this church or that manor house was building? Were the hedges there and had the forests been cut? How were the stones carried? Were Manchester and Birmingham more than villages? What rights and what justice had these men? What did they eat and wear, and what was their faith? There is a lifetime of fascinating reading behind the answers to these questions; and even a little of such understanding is worth a thousand twopenny local guide books which give a few dates, a few names and a couple of quaint anecdotes.

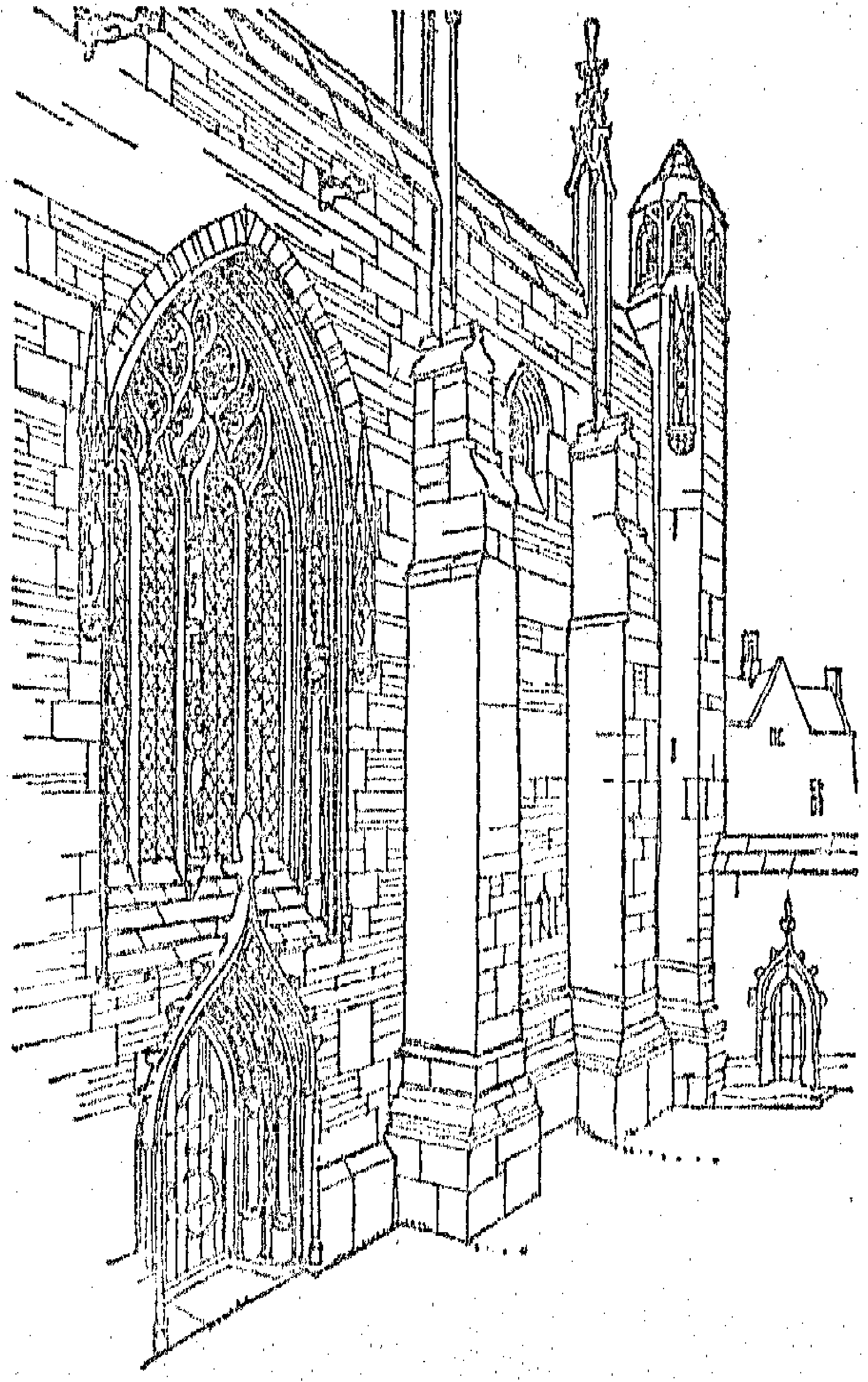
First, England is a slow growth; a series of layers – the product of one age being added to and superimposed on that of an earlier one. We say that this or that town is old. What do we mean? The answer will vary, but it will perhaps



1. Norman – usually very simple with thick walls and small openings. Wall slightly thicker at load-bearing points, but principle of buttress not realised. The semi-circular arch of ancient Rome still persists

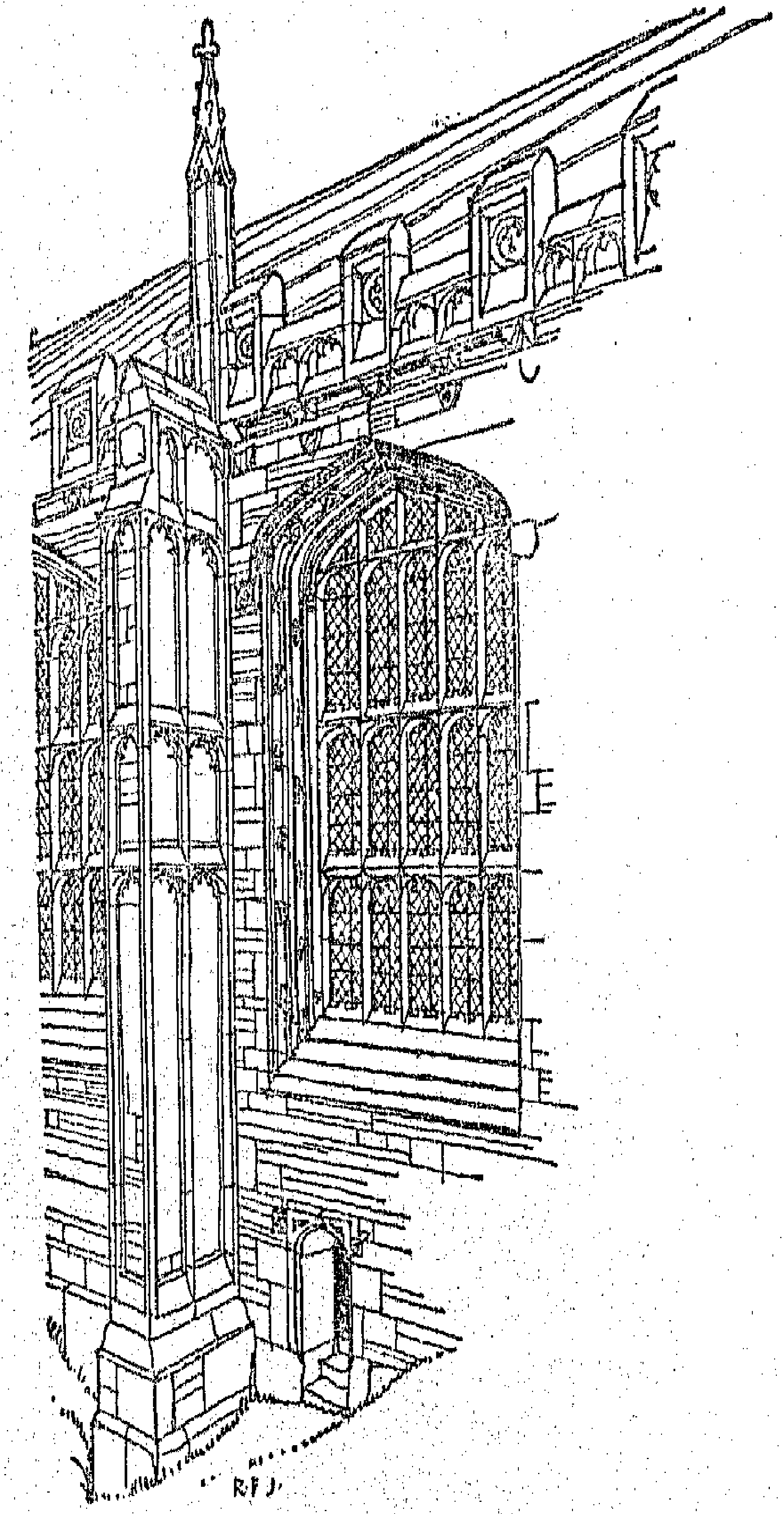


2. Early English – more scientific, the thrust of roof or vault being met by projecting buttress. Windows are being grouped in twos and threes, but still no tracery. Arches pointed to harmonise with vault above. Little carving or ornament.



3. Decorated: structural principle of thrust and buttress more fully realised. Grouping of lancet windows now become one window with elaborate tracery, a fuller and more luxurious age is expressed.

run something like this: down there by the fifteenth-century bridge – which they are thinking of widening now – the road that the Roman legions made once crossed the river; the children can still paddle in the ford. And it was there, on the road and near the water that the Saxons built their little Christian church – a thousand years ago. Then William came from Caen with his Norman knights and bishops, and with them they brought the great tradition that they had inherited from ancient Rome – the tradition of building in the grand manner. And so they too built.



4. Perpendicular: buttress takes full weight of roof, so that windows can be much larger – a field for the stained-glass worker. Ornament less lavish and more mechanical – the stone 'panelling' with tall proportions gives the name to the style.

These were the ages of faith: the Church was all-powerful, the holder of vast lands, the great influence in men's lives,

their university and hospital, the international bond that made all Europe one and, above all, the great patron whom the arts and crafts were there to serve. So the Normans built; first the knights built that castle keep to hold the road, then, to protect the people, they built the town wall – it ran where the boundary of the legion's camp had run – and then they began to rebuild the Saxon church. They made it the seat of a bishop and so called it a cathedral. For a time they would use, perhaps, the Saxon church as a chancel for the new cathedral, while they built the new Norman nave – strong and simple like the men themselves.

Then, as the centuries passed, the masons – the great engineers of their day – developed their craft; and it is this development through 500 years (say A.D. 1000–1500), this tradition of engineering in stone, that we call Medieval (or Gothic) Architecture. As time went by the detail changed; at the beginning we had the thick walls and small windows of the Normans and at the end we had the carving, the glory and the stained glass of, say, King's College Chapel at Cambridge or Henry VII's Chapel at Westminster, but always the changes were made gradually, each generation improving just a little on the work of its predecessors. And so to divide Medieval Architecture into hard and fast 'styles' (Early English, Decorated, Perpendicular, etc.) with dates attached, is to give a false picture. A rich monastery like Gloucester or Westminster might be a hundred years ahead of the builders of a church in some remote Yorkshire village. The craft of the mason was organized from Rome to Scotland, but ideas travelled very slowly.

These engineers in stone had three main problems to solve: (1) they had to provide a fitting house for the elaborate ritual of the Church and for the great processions of pilgrims to the saints' and martyrs' shrines that lay behind the High Altar – one thinks of Chaucer's pilgrims journeying to Canterbury; (2) they had to build over this vast church a great fireproof roof, and they had to do it with such stones as a packhorse could carry from the quarry; (3) they had to let in as much light as they could – more and more as time went by – and yet to keep the panes of glass small, for that was all the glass they knew. The answer to problem 1 was the 'plan' – the nave and chancel and aisles, focussing on the celebration of Mass at the altar, and the transepts and chapels and Lady Chapel. Everything which we see still in the quiet and empty spaces at Wells or York or Lincoln once played its part in a highly-organized ritual, and it all glowed with colour and life and meaning. The answer to problem 2 was the high stone vault – precision work in stone – with its system of ribs with buttresses and flying-buttresses to take their outward thrust. The answer to problem 3 was 'tracery', that lovely system of stone bars dividing up the window into graceful patterns, resisting wind pressure and giving a magnificent field for the stained-glass worker. It was all a glorious blend of faith and science and art.

So, in our old town, we shall find that perhaps even before the Normans had carried their nave to roof level, another generation had come who built more gracefully and with increasing confidence, and high in the upper part of the Norman nave they would build their steeply-pointed windows in harmony with the pointed stone vault above. Then, a century later, the old Saxon chancel would be rebuilt on grander lines and with all the intricacies of intersecting vaulting ribs and interweaving tracery bars and rich carving (once gilded) that we associate with the fourteenth century, and call 'Decorated'. Then perhaps would come the Lady Chapel or a rebuilding of, say, a transept, and there we may find the huge windows of Tudor days, with the mass of vertical stone bars that gave the name 'Perpendicular' to the style. And in memorials and tombs and screens and doorways you will find a bewildering medley of all manners of building right up to our own day. That is the kind of story you can read into most English cathedrals and, on a smaller scale, you can for yourself read a very similar story into the quiet charm and musty odours of a village church.

Note three things: one, we cannot say how 'old' this cathedral is – it was building more or less continuously for half a thousand years; two, we cannot say who was its 'architect', as there was no such person – generations of unknown craftsmen, proud of their skill, worked out their problems for themselves; three, these questions do not matter. What does matter is that we should have an understanding of the kind of life, the state of mind, that produced these things, and an understanding and enjoyment of the harmonies, the lights and shades and colours, the grouping of the towers, the rhythm of the vault within and the perspective of the buttresses without that go to make up that mysterious something that we call 'beautiful'.

And so too, out in the streets, there was the same kind of growth. In the central core of our old city we may find a few, though very few, houses that were there when the later parts of the cathedral were built. But houses, before 1500, unless they were the country manors of the great feudal lords, were simpler and less durable than the churches – affairs of timber and thatch – and for the most part they disappeared long ago. Here and there you may find them ... in the once rich and busy wool market towns of the Cotswolds or East Anglia the merchants built their houses as well and as proudly as the churches, and there are too the half-timbered streets of the Midlands and the South-East. But for the most part it is probable that our city core, like the quiet clergy houses in the cathedral Close, will belong to a later time, to the eighteenth century; when a middle-class (shopkeepers, lawyers, doctors, etc.) had arisen to build itself homes. In the quiet brick fronts – prim and sedate and unpretentious, with simple doorways and painted sash windows – we see an expression of their unruffled and unhurried lives. But even here the idea of 'growth' persists; if we penetrate the alleys and back-yards we may sometimes find the huge beams and the older and smaller sort of bricks that show us that these prim façades and panelled rooms of the days of the Georges were built on the sites of older houses, and that perhaps the kitchens or outhouses or the 'bones' of the house itself were really there when the scaffolding was still round the cathedral tower.

And so we can read on until we come to the era of steam, to the manufacture by machinery of cheaper and nastier building materials and to their cheap transport, to the passing away of craftsmanship and to an era of building in misunderstood and badly-copied styles. So, in the over-prosperous days of our great-grandparents, street after street was rebuilt and 'improved' out of all recognition. And so to the second-rate vulgarity of our own day ... to the superimposed 'shop-fronts' of the chain-store, all vermilion or black and chromium and shoddy, and to the ill-mannered self-assertion of the latest cinema and the outlying bungalows of the nineteen-thirties.

That is the story of the town: you can adapt it yourself to the village, with the parish church as the core and the manor house as the symbol of an older social system, and the humble cottages built in the local way and built in the nineteenth century much as they had been in the fifteenth.

There are a dozen ways of looking at buildings; but this principle of slow growth closely linked with the ever-changing social system – feudal, agricultural, religious, aristocratic, industrial, commercial – is essential; if we understand that then the whole story takes on a certain unity and cohesion. The beauty is always there for the eyes that can see it; it will emerge gradually of itself if there is an understanding of how these things came to be.

Look too, if you have a more mechanical turn of mind, for the old solutions of mechanical problems: how cathedral

vaults were supported and held up by the buttresses, how the timber roofs of village churches were put together by the old carpenters, or how, in say the Cotswolds, the masons solved almost every problem by the skilful use of their stone – importing as few materials as possible – and how in stone jointing alone there is a study which can become a complete hobby in itself.

And notice – above all perhaps – how this skilful use of a local material gives more than half the beauty to our country: stone in the great limestone belt (Dorset, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire, etc.) or brick in the clay lands of the Midlands, harder granitic stones in the villages of the Yorkshire or Derbyshire dales, or thatch and cob in Devonshire ... none of these materials was used because of its beauty; they were all used for the very practical reason that they were close at hand, and they were used with the knowledge and understanding of many lifetimes. Their interest lies in the skill with which they were handled to make enduring and weatherproof houses, their beauty lies in the fact that they give to the villages an overall unity of colour and proportion, and that their use makes our man-made villages and farmhouses – like our man-made chequer-board landscape – a part of the soil of England.

R. FURNEAUX JORDAN

ROUTES

I. OXFORD AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD

Oxford

Walks from Oxford

R. 1. Oxford to the Cherwell valley, 35 m. 55
R. 2. Oxford to Great Tew and Enstone, returning via Charlbury and Woodstock, 42 m. 60
R. 3. Oxford to Blenheim Park and Woodstock, 8 m. 63
R. 3A. Oxford to Witney via the Evenlode valley, returning via South Leigh, 30 m. 66
R. 4. Oxford to Stanton Harcourt and Bampton, returning via Newbridge, 33 m. 72
R. 5. Oxford to the White Horse Vale and the Berkshire Downs, via Faringdon, returning via Wantage, 50 m. 77
R. 5A. Oxford to the White Horse (direct route), 22 m. 84
R. 6. Oxford to Abingdon, 6 m. 85
R. 6A. Oxford to Newbury, 27 m. 90
R. 7. Oxford to Wallingford, via Dorchester and Ewelme, 30 m. 94
R. 7A. Oxford to Blewbury, via Wallingford and Cholsey, returning via Abingdon, 37 m. 99
R. 8. Oxford to Thame and the foothills of the Chilterns, returning via Watlington and Chalgrove, 41 m. 101
R. 8A. Oxford to the Chiltern Hills (Aston Rowant) via Wheatley, 15 m. 107
R. 9. Oxford to the Otmoor country (circular route) 30 m. 109

II. NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Banbury

R. 10. Banbury to Edgehill via Horley and Hornton, returning via Alkerton and Swalcliffe, 25 m. 122
R. 11. Banbury to Deddington, via Bloxham, returning via Adderbury, 12 m. 129
R. 12. Banbury to Gt. Tew via Dun's Tew, returning via S. Newington, 21 m. 132
R. 13. Banbury to Burford, via the Rollright Stones and Chipping Norton, 30 m. 134

III. WEST OXFORDSHIRE

Burford

R. 14. Burford to the Evenlode valley and Wychwood Forest, returning via the Windrush valley and Minster Lovell, 22 m. 146
R. 15. Burford to Lechlade via Bampton, returning via Langford, 29 m. 151

IV. SOUTH-WEST BERKSHIRE

Newbury

R. 16. Newbury to Wantage via E. Ilsley, returning down the Lambourn valley, 36 m. 161
R. 17. Newbury to Inkpen Beacon and Combe, returning via Kintbury, 19 m. 166
R. 18. Newbury to Silchester and Reading, returning via Bucklebury Common, 43 m. 170
R. 19. Newbury to Aldworth via the Blue Pool, returning via Hampstead Norris, 30 m. 177

V. THE CHILTERNS AND THE MIDDLE THAMES

Henley-on-Thames

R. 20. Henley-on-Thames to Wallingford, returning along the Thames Valley, 36 m. 186

R. 20A. Henley-on-Thames over the Chilterns to Wallingford, returning via Checkendon, 28 m. 190
R. 21. Henley-on-Thames to Watlington, returning through the Chiltern beechwoods, 14 m. 191
R. 22. Henley-on-Thames to Maidenhead down the Thames Valley, returning via Maidenhead Thicket, 24 m. 193
R. 23. Chiltern Walks 197

VI. Windsor Castle and East Berks

Windsor Castle
R. 24. Windsor to Finchampstead, via the Nine Mile Ride, returning through Wokingham and Bray, 43 m. 212
R. 24A. Windsor to Winkfield, Warfield and Binfield, returning via Waltham St. Lawrence and Bray, 17 m. 218

KEY TO HOTEL CLASSIFICATION

No. 1.	– Large hotels.
No. 2.	– Other recommended hotels.
No. 3.	– Good country inns, where accommodation for the night can be obtained.
T.H.	– Trust Houses.
P.R.H.A.	– Peoples' Refreshment House Association.
Y.H.	– Youth Hostels.

ABBREVIATIONS

Note. The following abbreviations are used in describing architectural styles:

Sax.	– Saxon (pre-Conquest).
Norm.	– Norman (Conquest until mid-12th cent.).
Trans.	– Transition (latter half, 12th cent.).
E.E.	– Early English (13th cent.).
Dec.	– Decorated (14th cent.).
Perp.	– Perpendicular (latter part of 14th cent. and during 15th cent.).

DEFINITIONS OF ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

Apse	– A semi-circular E. termination to a church.
Arcade	– A series of arches.
Boss	– A raised ornament in a vaulted roof.
Buttress	– Stonework built against a wall to strengthen it.
Capital	– The head part of a column or pillar.
Clerestory	– The windowed upper part of a church above the roofs of the aisles.

Corbel	– A stone projection from a wall, often carved in the shape of a head, supporting an arch or roof beam.
Reredos	– An ornamental screen set behind and above an altar.
Transepts	– The transverse arms of a cruciform church.
Tympanum	– The surface over a doorway or window enclosed by the lintel and a surmounting arch.
Vault	– An arched roof of a circular or Gothic form.

BERKSHIRE AND OXFORDSHIRE

A SHORT SURVEY

The counties of Berkshire and Oxfordshire together form a triangular area with Banbury (Oxon.) near the N. point, Newbury (Berks.) in the S.W. and Windsor in the S.E., Oxford lying roughly in the centre. This triangle is about 50 m. long from N. to S. by 40 m. broad from E. to W. along the base.

*

SCENERY. – For the purposes of scenery, the area may be divided broadly into seven geological regions. Each region is markedly different in character, and this is reflected by the architecture of the churches and the older cottages in the villages.

Starting from the N., the area around Banbury lies upon the *Lias* formation. This is a promontory of Oxfordshire projecting northwards between Northants on the E. and Warwickshire on the W. It is a hilly region, somewhat bare at first sight, but interspersed by well-wooded valleys containing various small streams. Some beautifully situated villages are to be found here, such as Alkerton, Shenington, Swerford and Great Tew. The cottages are of rich brown stone, many with good mullioned windows and thatched roofs, and the churches, for the most part, rank high in architectural value. The most notable scenic feature is the great ridge of Edgehill (700 ft.), to which there is a gradual slope on the Oxfordshire side, but which overhangs the Warwickshire plain in almost precipitous fashion on the further side.

As the county broadens further to the S. the *Oolite* formation is reached. This stretches in a broad band across from the Gloucestershire border on the W. to that of Bucks on the E. In this region again, bare uplands seem to predominate, but there is a good deal of woodland, particularly in the neighbourhood of the old Forest of Wychwood, though what remains is but a shadow of its former self. The region is diversified by the beautiful valleys of the Cherwell, Evenlode and Windrush, as well as of the Glyme and the Dorne, two tributaries of the Evenlode. These valleys are distinguished by many beautiful villages with grey stone cottages, many of which are roofed with thin slabs of local stone, known as 'Stonesfield slate'. Around Burford the scenery is definitely of the Cotswold type, with bare rolling uplands and stone walls dividing the fields.

South again of the stone country is the broad band of *Oxford Clay*, which is chiefly a region of flat meadowland, through which the rivers wind a devious course contrasting with the swifter flowing streams further north. This region stretches from the Gloucestershire border near Lechlade right across Oxfordshire as far as the Bucks border beyond Bicester. The Thames flows through it eastwards as far as Oxford, where it turns S., but the Oxford Clay country continues N.E., where it forms the fen country of Otmoor, watered by the sluggish little river Ray. Despite its lack of bold scenery, this flat region possesses a certain quiet charm and is distinguished for a number of fine churches.

Immediately to the S. of the Thames, there runs a ridge along the N. border of Berks composed of the *Coral Rag* formation. This runs from near Faringdon on the W. across Berks and Oxfordshire, forming a ridge between the Thames on the N. and the White Horse Vale on the S. Of this formation is the commanding Wytham Hill, an isolated mass (583 ft.), which lies a little N. of the main ridge and is the most northerly point in Berks. The well-known Cumnor Hills, to the W. of Oxford, and the bold height of Shotover, to the E. (662 ft.) are also composed of the Coral Rag rock, and some delightful villages, such as Beckley on the N. side and Garsington and Cuddesdon on the S. of Shotover, command wide-spreading views over the surrounding flat country.

Between the Coral Rag and the chalk country further to the S. is another broad belt of flat country, composed of *Gault*, forming the White Horse Vale in Berks and the flat country below the Chilterns in Oxfordshire. The Thames flows between the two, sweeping round the base of the two prominent hills crowned by the Wittenham Clumps. These are outlying bastions of chalk and are prominent features in so many views. The villages of this region are characterised chiefly by cottages of flint or of timber framing and brick, and, although some of the churches have fine proportions, they do not, with a few exceptions, approach the magnificence of those in the stone country.

The great belt of *Chalk* forming the Berks Downs and the S. end of the great Chiltern range in Oxfordshire stretches right across the S. portion of both counties, and between them the Thames forces its way through the lovely scenery of the Goring Gap. All along the base of these hills stand a number of pretty villages. Particularly notable are the Letcombes and the Hendreds in Berks and Ewelme in Oxfordshire. The finest chalk scenery is to be found at Uffington in Berks, above which rises the magnificent height of White Horse Hill (856 ft.). Generally speaking, however, the slopes of the Berks Downs are gentle and bare of trees, whereas those of the Chilterns are much bolder and in many places thickly wooded. On the S. side the main ridge does not present a long continuous front as it does on the N., but is penetrated by a number of ravines divided by long ridges, which slope gradually down to the flatter country further S. These features again are much bolder among the Chilterns and being densely wooded are extremely beautiful, having amongst them several remote villages, such as Stonor and Pishill (see Walks in the Chilterns).

To the S. of the chalk in Berks is the Kennet valley, which runs through gravel soil of the *Reading and Bagshot Sands of Tertiary formation.* This kind of scenery is of the pine and heather variety, and on either side of the valley are a series of beautiful commons, particularly at Snelsmore and Bucklebury on the N. side and at Greenham and Crookham on the S. side, all in the neighbourhood of Newbury. Near Newbury, to the S.W., is some more grand chalk country in the neighbourhood of Inkpen Beacon, the highest chalk down in Berks (954 ft.).

The S.E. corner of Berks is less interesting scenically than the other parts of the area, though two exceptions are the fine wooded chalk ridge near Marlow, where the Quarry Woods descend precipitously to the Thames, and the noble and world-famous view of Windsor Castle, where the Thames sweeps round the foot of the chalk ridge, upon which the Castle stands so well. The remainder of this S.E. portion is either *London Clay*, of a pleasant pastoral character, or Bagshot Sands, here forming the picturesque district of Windsor Forest.

Reviewing all the varied types of scenery to be found in the two counties, it would be hard to find a more typical cross-section of southern England.

*

WALKING. – Details of walks among the Chilterns and around Oxford are given under their respective headings. The Thames towpath runs alongside the river for the whole of its course and passes through some very beautiful country. During the summer months Messrs Salter's steamers, which run a regular service, may be boarded at any lock. Teas can be obtained on board. The Ridgeway runs along the top of the Berks Downs for many miles, affording a continuous panorama over the Vale of the White Horse. YOUTH HOSTELS are situated at Oxford, N. Newington, near Banbury, Charlbury, Oxon, Charney Bassett, Maidenhead and Streatley, Berks. For particulars, apply to the Youth Hostel Association, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

*

ANTIQUITIES. – The chief stone monument of the *Neolithic* age is the circle known as the Rollright Stones in N. Oxfordshire. Not far away are the cromlech known as the Hoar Stone at Enstone and the monolith known as the Hawk Stone. There is also the long barrow on the Berks Downs known as Wayland Smith's Cave. Near the last is another though much later pre-historic work, the White Horse, its peculiar shape said to have been derived from a similar type which appeared in early Cretan art.

There are a number of Early Iron Age camps, notably at Madmarston and Tadmarton, near Banbury, Uffington Castle, Letcombe Castle and Blewburton Camp on the Berks Downs and Walbury Camp, near Inkpen Beacon. Between the rivers Thames and Thame near Dorchester is a pre-historic promontory fort known as the Dyke Hills. There are several ancient boundary ditches difficult to date, all known as Grim's Ditch. One of the best preserved is that running up the slopes of the Chilterns between Mongewell and Nuffield in Oxfordshire. Ancient British roads, now largely grass-grown, are the Icknield Way along the foot of the Berks Downs and Chiltern Hills and the Ridgeway along the crest of the ridge. Of *Roman* antiquities the only visible relic is at N. Leigh, Oxon, where a villa has been exposed. Many others lie buried at various places. Alchester, near Bicester, and Dorchester were both Roman towns, but no traces of them remain. The road connecting them survives as a green track which crosses Otmoor. Parts of Akeman Street, crossing the N. part of Oxon, are used as a modern road. The Devil's Highway in Windsor Forest is part of the road from London to Silchester. The latter city is

AFO-103

only just over the Berks border in Hants, but everything which has been found there is to be seen at Reading Museum. The earthworks at Wallingford may be either Roman or Saxon in date. A number of *Anglo-Saxon* cemeteries have been found in Berks and Mortimer Church possesses a gravestone of this date.

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ARCHITECTURE. – (a) *Churches*. No complete Sax. church remains in either county. Wickham, Berks and Caversfield, Oxon have Sax. towers; those of St Michael's, Oxford and N. Leigh, Oxon, are either late Sax. or very early Norm. Iffley, Oxon, has the finest small Norm. church in England; Avington and Padworth, both Berks, are also good small examples. Oxford Cathedral is the finest large Norm. church. Transition work is well represented by Blewbury and Lambourn, Berks; E.E. by Uffington, Berks and Witney, Oxon; Dec. by Adderbury, Bloxham, Dorchester Abbey and Witney, all in Oxon; and Perp. by St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, Abingdon (St Helen's), Berks, Burford and Chipping Norton, Oxon. This list might be multiplied indefinitely. Yarnton, Oxon, has some good Jacobean work; Wroxton, Oxon, and Hamstead Marshall, Berks, have good Jacobean fittings. Small 18th-cent. churches survive at Chiselhampton and Wheatfield, both Oxon. All Saints, Oxford, is a typical city church of the early 18th cent. and Banbury of the early 19th cent.

(b) *Colleges*. Collegiate buildings of every date may be studied in Oxford, ranging from those of Merton (c. 1370) to Keble (1870).

(c) *Almshouses*. Abingdon and Bray, Berks, and Ewelme, Oxon, possess notable examples.

(d) *Abbeys*. The great church of Dorchester survives intact, though the monastic buildings have disappeared. Oxford Cathedral was formerly St Frideswide's Priory Church. Both

the former great abbeys of Reading and Abingdon have largely been destroyed, though a gateway survives intact at each and at Abingdon there also remains an old building known as 'The Chequer'. Part of the church of the Grey Friars, Reading, is still in use as a parish church and part of Bisham Abbey, Berks survives as a mansion, while the church and parts of the monastic buildings remain at Hurley, Berks.

(e) *Castles*. Windsor claims pre-eminence. Broughton and Shirburn, both Oxon, have survived as private mansions, each surrounded by its moat. Greys Court and Hanwell, both Oxon, are incorporated with later houses. Donnington, Berks, is now only a gatehouse, and there are some scanty remains of Wallingford in some private grounds.

(f) *Domestic Architecture*. The oldest inhabited houses are Appleton Manor and Sutton Courtenay (Norman Hall), both Berks and each dating from c. 1200. Charney Bassett Grange, Berks, and Cogges Manor, Oxon, have some 13th cent. and Fyfield Manor, Berks, some 14th-cent. work. Later houses are Ockwells, Berks, High Lodge, Woodstock, Stanton Harcourt and the ruined Minster Lovell, Oxon (15th cent.); Shaw and Ufton Court, Berks, Burford Priory and Mapledurham, Oxon (Elizabethan); Coleshill, Berks, by Inigo Jones and Ashdown, Berks, by his son-in-law Webb, Chastleton, Rousham, Wroxton Abbey and Yarnton, Oxon (Jacobean). There are also many other houses of this period. Blenheim Palace, Oxon, by Vanbrugh, is the outstanding achievement of the 18th cent. Other examples are Basildon, Berks, by Carr; Buckland, Berks, by Wood the Younger; Ditchley, Oxon, by Gibbs; and Faringdon, Berks.

(g) *Old Towns*. Oxford still retains some good streets of old houses, notably Holywell Street (17th cent.) and Beaumont Street (Regency). Burford, Oxon, one of the most charming and interesting old towns in England, is rich in houses of the 16th and 17th cents. Abingdon, Berks, is also remarkable for its fine buildings, notably the County Hall (1677), as well as for its many old houses. Windsor Town Hall is by Wren, Newbury Cloth Hall and the Town Halls of Watlington, Oxon and Wallingford, Berks, are also 17th cent.

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HISTORY. – The counties of Berks and Oxon first emerge into history when the region of which they now form a part became a debatable frontier zone between the two powerful Saxon Kingdoms of Wessex to the S. and Mercia to the N. Sometimes it was the Thames which formed the frontier and sometimes the line of the chalk downs. Offa drove the Wessex men from the Vale of the White Horse and later Egbert pushed the Wessex frontier northwards to the Thames. Alfred the Great was born at Wantage, Berks, in 849, and in 871 he and his brother, King Ethelred, defeated the Danes at the great battle of Ashdown, fought somewhere on the Berks Downs in the neighbourhood of Ashdown House. A century after Alfred's death, the Danes once again invaded Berks, burning Wallingford and generally harrying the countryside. In spite of the troublous times, Christianity had been established in the region and a bishopric set up at Dorchester, Oxon, by St Birinus, the see being later transferred to Winchester. The Saxon Kings built a palace at Islip, Oxon, where in 1004 Edward the Confessor was born.

After the Norman Conquest Oxford and Windsor began to become places of importance (see under their respective headings). Henry I built palaces at Oxford and Woodstock and the latter was in use until the reign of Charles I. During the unquiet reign of Stephen, the Empress Matilda escaped from Oxford Castle, where she was being besieged, to Wallingford Castle, where, at the conclusion of the war, a treaty was signed in 1153, by which Henry II secured the throne. Woodstock was the scene of his famous romance with Fair

Rosamund. King John and many succeeding monarchs hunted in the forest of Wychwood, Oxon. During the reign of Richard II, a battle took place at Radcot Bridge near Lechlade, when the forces of the King's Minister, the Duke of Ireland, were defeated by those of the Lords Appellant, led by Bolingbroke. At the time of the Dissolution, the abbeys of Osney and Eynsham in Oxon, and of Reading and Abingdon in Berks, were surrendered and their property distributed by the King to various favourites. During the Civil War Charles I established his headquarters at Oxford. After Edgehill (1642) the Royalists were able to advance and occupy Banbury, which they held throughout the war. Windsor, on the other hand, remained throughout in Parliamentary hands, and Cromwell began the training of his New Model Army in the Great Park. There was much fighting in both counties, including the battles of Chalgrove, where John Hampden received his mortal wound, the first battle of Newbury, where Falkland was killed, the second battle of Newbury and the siege of Donnington Castle. In 1645 the Royalist cause was doomed to failure by the Parliamentary victory of Naseby, in Northants. The Royalist garrisons holding Donnington, Faringdon and Wallingford then had to surrender; Banbury capitulated in May, 1646, and Oxford in June. In 1649, Cromwell suppressed the mutinous troops known as 'The Levellers' at Burford.

During the Revolution of 1688, Reading saw some fighting between the army of William of Orange, advancing on London, and some Irish mercenaries in the pay of James II. After that there was a long period of peace, until, during the second World War, Newbury was raided by enemy aircraft, a church and some houses surrounding it being destroyed. Reading also suffered damage and casualties in an air raid.

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CELEBRITIES. – So many famous figures have been associated with both Oxford and Windsor Castle that no attempt can be made to make mention of them all; only the most outstanding figures can therefore be enumerated. Famous natives of the counties of Berks and Oxon include three Kings – Alfred and Edward the Confessor (see History) and Edward III, who was born at Windsor Castle in 1312 and made great alterations to it. Henry I is also associated with Berks in connection with the foundation of Reading Abbey, where he was buried in 1135. Among divines associated with the two counties are St Birinus, who founded the see of Dorchester, Oxon, in 634; William of Wykeham, who founded New College, Oxford, and supervised the alterations at Windsor Castle for Edward III, and Bishop Jewell, who was Rector of Sunningwell, Berks, whence he had to flee at the time of the Marian persecution; Edmund Campion, the Jesuit martyr, lay hid at Stonor Park, Oxon, and was captured at Lyford, Berks, in the reign of Elizabeth, being later executed at Tyburn. Archbishop Laud was a native of Reading, where he was born in 1593. Bishop Juxon, who attended Charles I on the scaffold and officiated at his funeral at Windsor, kept alive the services of the Church of England at Chastleton during the Commonwealth, when they were prohibited; John Wesley preached his first sermon at S. Leigh Church, Oxon, in 1725; John Henry Newman, afterwards Cardinal, was Vicar of Littlemore, Oxon, at the time of his secession to Rome; Keble and Pusey were associated with him in the religious revival known as the 'Oxford Movement'.

Among statesmen and soldiers may be mentioned the following: William the Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, who was Regent during the minority of Henry III and lived at Hampstead Marshal, Berks; William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, the unfortunate minister of Henry VI, who was murdered in mid-Channel in 1450 after his fall from power; he founded the Hospital at Ewelme, Oxon; Francis, Viscount Lovell, equally unfortunate minister of Richard III, who lived both at Greys Court and at Minster Lovell, Oxon; Lord Williams of Thame, who presided as Sheriff at the trial of the Oxford Martyrs and had the custody of Princess Elizabeth at Rycote, Oxon, during Mary's reign; George Croke, the judge who declared ship-money illegal in the reign of Charles I, who lived at Studley Priory, Oxon; Lord Saye and Sele ('Old Subtilty') who organised N. Oxon for the Parliament and lived at Broughton Castle; Speaker Lenthall of Long Parliament fame, who was born at Henley, lived at Bessels Leigh, Berks, and at Burford, where he died; the Marquis of Winchester, who so gallantly defended Basing House, Hants, for the King in the Civil War and lived at Englefield, Berks (for other Civil War celebrities, see History); William, first Lord Craven, who defended James II at Whitehall during the Revolution of 1688 and lived at Ashdown House, Berks, and Richard, Lord Lovelace, a staunch supporter of William of Orange, who lived at Hurley, Berks. During the 18th cent. the great palace of Blenheim, Oxon, was given to the first Duke of Marlborough. Viscount Bolingbroke, one of the ministers of Queen Anne, lived at Bucklebury, Berks; Lord North of Wroxton Abbey, Oxon, was Prime Minister at the time of the loss of the American colonies, and Warren Hastings lived at Purley, Berks, during his famous trial; John White, founder of Massachusetts, was born at Stanton St John, in Oxon.

Both counties are associated with a number of poets and men of letters. Chaucer lived both at Woodstock and at Windsor Castle; Shakespeare wrote *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at the command of Queen Elizabeth; Milton was descended from an Oxfordshire family which lived at Great Milton and was married at Forest Hill, Oxon; Dr Johnson was an undergraduate at Pembroke College, Oxford; Pope was brought up at Binfield, Berks, and worked at Stanton

Harcourt, Oxon, on the translation of Homer's *Iliad*, James Pye, of Faringdon, was Poet Laureate to George III; Tennyson was married at Shiplake, Oxon; William Morris lived at Kelmscott Manor, Oxon, and Matthew Arnold has immortalised the Cumnor Hills, Berks, in his *Scholar Gypsy*. Scott also wrote of Cumnor and its tragedy in *Kenilworth*; Oxfordshire is also the setting of his *Woodstock*. Kingsley wrote of Newbury as 'Whitbury' in *Two Years Ago*, Thomas Hardy, of Lambourn, as 'Marygreen' in *Jude the Obscure*, and Mary Russell Mitford, of Three Mile Cross, near Reading, in *Our Village*. *Windsor Castle* is one of Harrison Ainsworth's best known historical novels, while Thomas Hughes has immortalised the Vale of the White Horse in *Tom Brown's Schooldays*.

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INDUSTRIES. – Both counties are primarily agricultural, though here and there are isolated industrial centres. The two chief ones are Oxford, with its great motor-car and pressed steel factories, as well as its older industries of brewing and marmalade making, and Reading, renowned the world over for its biscuits. Reading also has breweries, engineering works and seed testing grounds. There are paper mills at Thatcham, Berks, and at Sandford and Wolvercote, near Oxford. Banbury has an aluminium works and an agricultural implement factory; in the neighbourhood are ironstone quarries. Witney, Oxon, has old-established blanket works, and Abingdon, long noted as a clothing town, now manufactures motor-cars. The Berks Downs around Lambourn are famed for the breeding and training of racehorses, and also on the Downs at Harwell, Berks, is a very new industry, which employs a great number of hands – that of atomic research.

I. OXFORD AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD

OXFORD
WALKS FROM OXFORD
THE CHERWELL VALLEY
BLENHEIM AND WOODSTOCK
WITNEY
BAMPTON
THE WHITE HORSE VALE
THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS
ABINGDON
WALLINGFORD
DORCHESTER
THAME
THE CHILTERN FOOTHILLS
THE OTMOOR COUNTRY

I. OXFORD AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD

OXFORD

Oxford (*Randolph*, *Mitre*, No. 1; *Eastgate*, *Golden Cross*, *King's Arms*, No. 2, and many others) is three cities in one; the world-renowned University city, the old city of Oxford which surrounds it and which has an independent life of its own as the county town of Oxfordshire, and the modern manufacturing city, devoted to Morris Motors, on the E. side of the Cherwell.

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HISTORY. – Although the Romans seem to have passed it by, the low gravel promontory between Thames and Cherwell, where the old city now stands, must in early times have attracted settlers as a good defensive position, raised a trifle above the surrounding marshlands. In c. 700 a priory was founded here by St Frideswide, a lady of royal birth, who became its first Prioress. We first read of Oxford in history in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* in A.D. 912, when it already seems to have possessed some importance. A century later, in 1010, it was burnt by the Danes, while eight years later, Canute, the Danish king of England, held a council here, and later his son Harold was crowned here. It was thus in a fair way towards becoming the capital of England, though rivalled by Winchester, but for some cause its fortunes evidently declined, as at the Conquest half of its thousand houses appear to have been in ruins.

The Norman governor, Robert d'Oili, threw up the great artificial mound to the W. of the city and built a strong castle, and later the city was encircled with a wall. Henry I chose Oxford as a royal residence and built Beaumont Palace on its N. side, still commemorated by the street of that name. Later Richard Cœur de Lion, son of Henry II, was born here. In the next reign Stephen besieged Matilda in Oxford, but she escaped across the frozen river to Abingdon. In the year 1167, a migration of English students from the University of Paris took place. It is not known whether these students had been recalled by the King, Henry II, or whether they had been expelled by the French. However, they settled in Oxford, and this marks the first small beginning of the University. At first they lived in lodgings and were very poor; later, since they were unpopular with the citizens and desired to band themselves together, they acquired halls of residence. Disputes between them and the citizens were frequent, and in 1209 their activities were suspended altogether for five years as the result of an incident more serious than usual. However, better times were on the way, and under the leadership of such men as Edmund Rich, later Archbishop of Canterbury and afterwards canonised, Robert Grosseteste and William of Durham, the University prospered. The last-mentioned left a legacy, which was used for the founding of a college, the aim being to segregate in one building a body of students from the scattered halls wherein they had been lodging. Thus University College, the oldest of them all, came into existence in 1249. Balliol was the second, being founded in 1260, while Merton, dating from 1274, was the third. Merton is, however, the only one of the first three colleges to retain its original buildings. Since that time, every century has added more colleges and the old halls have all been absorbed by them, save that of St Edmund, which still retains its vitality and independence.

Ever since the beginning, disputes between 'town and gown' had continued, and these culminated in 1354 in the riots which started in February of that year, when some students were celebrating the festival of St Scholastica in a tavern. A brawl occurred, which speedily spread throughout the cramped little city; the halls were looted and the students,

having retreated into Merton College, were besieged there for a week, sixty-three of them being killed. Although troubles have frequently flared up between 'town and gown' since then, they have never again led to such a bloody conclusion.

All through the middle ages, religious houses abounded in the city, the principal being the great abbey of Osney, which stood to the W. of the city, where is now the railway goods yard. This magnificent building became Oxford's first cathedral, when Henry VIII decided to make it the seat of a new bishopric. Unfortunately, this endured for only a very short time, after which the glorious buildings of the abbey were doomed to destruction, the cathedral being transferred to the former church of St Frideswide's Priory, now Christ Church.

During the reign of Mary, Oxford witnessed the horrible burnings of Archbishop Cranmer, of Canterbury, and Bishops Latimer and Ridley. The Roman Catholic religion having been compulsorily re-established by the Queen, these three prelates were burnt as heretics when they refused to submit to the papal claims to rule the Church of England. Latimer and Ridley were the first to die, and it was on this occasion that Latimer spoke the immortal words: 'Be of good comfort, Master Ridley, and play the man. We shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out.' Cranmer's death was postponed for some months, but he too later shared the same fate.

Happier times dawned with the reign of Elizabeth, who was devoted to Oxford and twice visited it, the occasions being marked each time by an orgy of masques and banquets. During this reign Thomas Bodley, one of Oxford's greatest benefactors, bequeathed funds for the extending and refurnishing with books of Duke Humphrey's Library. This had been founded in the middle of the 15th cent. by Duke

Humphrey of Gloucester, son of Henry IV, and housed in the newly-built Divinity School, but the books had all perished during the troubles of the Reformation. Bodley's great new library, known as the Bodleian, was completed early in the 17th cent. and has since been vastly extended.

During the Civil War Oxford became the Royalist capital, Charles I and his forces occupying the city for over three years (1642–6). The King lodged at Christ Church, the Queen at Merton. Those members of Parliament who had remained loyal to them met in the Hall of Christ Church, while New College served as a powder-mill and ammunition store. The Royal Mint was also set up in the city. The King used the city as his headquarters, returning to it from his various campaigns, and finally, when his cause was lost, escaped across Magdalen Bridge in the guise of a servant. The city, which had been heavily fortified during the King's occupation, surrendered shortly afterwards.

During the Commonwealth Cromwell himself became Chancellor of the University, many of those formerly holding high positions being ejected from their offices and Puritan nominees installed in their places. Dr Fell, the famous Dean of Christ Church, resisted his deprivation order and had forcibly to be removed from the Deanery, his wife and family having to be carried out on boards 'like pies going to the oven'.

After the Restoration Charles II paid a state visit to the city, spending a week there amid much rejoicing. During the time that the Plague was raging in London in 1665 the Court migrated to Oxford, the King residing at Christ Church and the Queen at Merton where, incidentally, Lady Castlemaine was delivered of a royal child.

In the next reign, James II began to fill all the high University posts with Roman Catholic nominees. This culminated in the disgraceful incident of the expulsion of the Fellows of Magdalen by the King for refusing to have a disreputable person named Farmer, chosen only for his religion, as their President. Realising that he had overstepped the mark, the King reinstated the Fellows, but it was too late, and soon afterwards James was deposed.

During the 18th cent. Oxford became renowned as 'the home of lost causes' and Jacobite feeling ran high at times. Politically, Oxford stood for the Tory cause, Cambridge supporting the Whigs. Various writers give a picture of a somewhat discreditable state of affairs with much heavy drinking among both dons and undergraduates. This state of affairs lasted well into the next century, but the Royal Commission of 1850 went far towards remedying many abuses. Pictures of early Victorian Oxford may be obtained by reading such books as *Verdant Green* and *Tom Brown at Oxford.* In the eighteen thirties the great religious revival known as the 'Oxford Movement', started by a sermon preached by Keble at St Mary's, culminated in the secession to Rome of Newman, the greatest of its leaders.

It was in 1669 that Oxford was first connected with London by a service of 'Flying Coaches', which made the journey in the course of one day. This was the precursor of all those splendidly equipped vehicles which maintained the service during the early part of the 19th cent., whose very names sound romantic, 'Alert', 'Star', 'Magnet', 'Rocket', 'Defiance', etc. These coaches started and finished their runs at the *Mitre* and *Star* Inns; the former is still a leading hotel, but the latter, afterwards famous as the *Clarendon*, has now closed its doors. Railways were at first resisted stubbornly by the University and for some years Steventon, in Berkshire, ten miles away (see R. 6A) remained the nearest station. A proposal by the Great Western railway in 1865 to establish a waggon works was stopped by the University, but the establishment of a large industry, then prevented, has since been accomplished at Cowley by the erection there of the vast motor works. Built up from small beginnings in c. 1912 by Mr William Morris, now Lord Nuffield, it has become one of the largest establishments of its kind in the world. Its founder has since conferred many notable benefactions upon the University as well as upon many other Oxford institutions.

Until the coming of the motor works, Oxford retained a singularly quiet and old-world air, which it has now largely lost. Horse tramcars continued to be the chief means of transport long after other cities had given them up, while hansom cabs continued to be seen in the streets until c. 1930.

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APPROACHES. – (a) *By road.* By far the finest approach is by either of the two roads from London, via Henley or High Wycombe, which meet at Magdalen Bridge. The first view of Oxford gained by the traveller is that of Magdalen Tower, followed by the famous curve of the High Street, perhaps the most beautiful street in Europe, leading to the centre of the city at Carfax.

(b) *By rail.* The traveller from Reading or London obtains a beautiful view, to the r. of the line, of the clustered towers and spires of the city. Unfortunately, however, the extremely sordid nature of the surroundings of the railway station goes far to mar the first impression thus gained, but a short bus ride to Carfax speedily leads the traveller to the heart of the old city. The great Norm. mound, upon which the Castle formerly stood, should be noticed on r., and also the one remaining tower. These relics are now enclosed within the Prison grounds.

Walks from Carfax

Carfax (the name derived from the old French, quatre voies=four ways) is the meeting place of the city's four principal streets. The tower, with its 'quarter-boys' and clock, formerly belonged to St Martin's church, demolished for street widening.

(1) **Down High Street to Magdalen, returning via Christ Church.** Soon after leaving Carfax, note on l. the *Mitre Hotel*, famous coaching inn, partly dating from the 17th cent., but standing upon a medieval crypt. Adjoining it is *All Saints Church*, good classical building by Dean Aldrich (1708). Between them *Turl St.* opens. Just to the N. of the church in this street is *Lincoln College*, founded 1427. The hall is original and the chapel Jacobean with good woodwork and old Flemish glass. John Wesley's rooms are pointed out. Returning to High Street, on the l. beyond the church are the new buildings of Brasenose College by Jackson (main entrance in Radcliffe Square; see below). Adjoining this is *St Mary's*, the University Church, where special sermons are preached during term. Here John Wycliffe, the 'Morning Star of the Reformation', thundered denunciations against the Church of his day, and later, in 1554, the Oxford Martyrs, Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley, were brought to trial. The magnificent tower and tall spire with its richly ornamented pinnacles is Dec., but the body of the church is Perp. The Congregation House (1320) on N. side was a meeting place of the heads of the University. The glorious S. porch in the baroque style was added by Archbishop Laud early in the 17th cent., the statue of the Virgin and Child was replaced at the Restoration (1660) after its predecessor had been smashed by the Cromwellians. It was actually proposed to demolish the porch in Victorian times because it did not match the church, a fate happily averted.

Turn l. into *Radcliffe Square*, to the N. of St Mary's, in the centre of which is the domed *Radcliffe Camera* by Gibbs (1749). At the top was once a 'camera obscura', hence the name. It was one of the many gifts of Dr Radcliffe, Court Physician to William III. There is a magnificent panorama from the top. On W. side of the square is *Brasenose College*, so called from its great knocker in the shape of a Lion's head, now preserved in the hall. This was taken to Stamford, Lincs., when the college migrated there in 1334, but the college returned to Oxford in 1509, which is the date of the front quad. The interesting chapel is in a transition Gothic-classic style, dating from the time of the Commonwealth, a very rare period for buildings of this kind. On the N. side of Radcliffe Square is the Bodleian Library (see walk 2); on the E. side is *All Souls College*, with frontage to High Street dating from 1437; the chapel has a reredos of this date with restored figures; the N. quad., with the Codrington Library and the twin Gothic towers by Hawksmoor date from the first half of the 18th cent.

Opposite St Mary's, turn down Oriel Street for *Oriel College*, on l. (founded 1326), with charming Jacobean buildings; the hall has a noble roof. The High Street front commemorates Cecil Rhodes. Other notable Oriel men were Sir Thomas More, Sir Walter Raleigh, Dr Arnold of Rugby, Thomas Hughes (author of *Tom Brown*), and the pioneers of the Oxford Movement, Newman, Keble and Dr Pusey. S. of Oriel is *Corpus Christi College* (1514) with interesting sundial (1605). Bishop Jewell and the 'judicious' Hooker, noted Anglican divines, were Corpus men. Adjoining Corpus to the E. is *Merton College*, founded 1264 at Merton, Surrey, and transferred here 10 years later. It possesses the oldest buildings in Oxford, the library with some chained books (1377), the picturesque Mob Quad and Hall (14th cent.), and the magnificent Dec. chapel with splendid Perp. tower, containing monument of Bodley, founder of the Bodleian.

Returning to High Street, *University College* is on the r., opposite All Souls. Oldest of all colleges (1249), the buildings date chiefly from the 17th cent.; good woodwork and glass by Van Ling in chapel; Shelley memorial by Onslow Ford (1896). Further down High Street on l. is *Queen's College* (1340), entirely rebuilt in early 18th cent. by Hawksmoor; chapel by Wren, library contains good carving by Grinling Gibbons. To the E. of Queen's is Queen's Lane, on the r. of which is *St Edmund Hall*, last survivor of its kind (see History), with charming late 17th-cent. buildings. It is said to stand upon ground once occupied by the house of St Edmund of Abingdon. Just beyond it is the church of *St Peter-in-the-East*, with fine Norm. S. doorway and crypt. Further down High Street on the r. are the *Examination Schools* by Jackson (1882). Just beyond on r. is the *Eastgate Hotel*, on site of the E. gate, a plaque of which the hotel bears. At the end of High Street are the *Botanic Gardens* (r.) with classical gateway (1621) and on the E. *Magdalen College* founded in 1458 by William of Waynflete. This is one of the most famous and beautiful of all the colleges. Notable features are the great tower (1492), on the top of which a hymn is sung on May morning, the first quad. with its quaint old Grammar Hall and open-air pulpit and the Cloisters with their strange beasts, and the Founder's tower on W. side (Perp.). The college overhangs the Cherwell in a manner reminiscent of the Backs at Cambridge. There are some beautiful walks beside this river, notably Addison's Walk. Other famous Magdalen men besides Addison were Wolsey and Hampden.

Return a short distance from Magdalen and take first turn to l. Rose Place, which leads into the *Christ Church Meadows*. From the Broad Walk leading past the Meadow Buildings of Christ Church to St Aldate's there is a very fine grouping of towers and spires on the r., Merton being in the foreground with a piece of the old city wall in front of it. The avenue to l. in front of Meadow Buildings leads to the College Barges. Turn r. on reaching St Aldate's, noting opposite Bishop King's Palace, a fine Tudor house and, further up the street, *Pembroke College*, founded 1624, on l., where Dr Johnson was an undergraduate. Enter *Christ Church* by Tom Gate; the lower portion of this gate is original work by Wolsey, the tower above by Wren; in it hangs 'Great Tom.' Christ Church, Oxford's premier college, originally founded as 'Cardinal College' by Wolsey in 1525, was only partially completed when its founder fell from power and died. Henry VIII thereupon reconstituted it in 1546 as 'Aedes Christi' or the House of Christ, hence the reason why Oxford men refer to it as 'The House' and why it is incorrect to call it 'Christ Church College'. Tom Quad, with its unfinished cloisters, dates from Wolsey's time, except for the N. side (1668) where he had intended to erect a chapel which would rival King's at Cambridge. To the fact that this was never done we owe the preservation of the *Cathedral*, which also serves as the college chapel. Originally the church of St Frideswide's Priory, it is a very beautiful Norm. building with a stumpy E.E. spire, one of the earliest ever to be erected in England. The E. end is a modern reconstruction; the two W. bays of nave were destroyed by Wolsey when building Tom Quad. In N. aisle of chancel are remains of St Frideswide's shrine and in S. chancel aisle a window by Van Ling (1634) showing Bishop King, first Bishop of Oxford and last Abbot of Osney, with the abbey ruins in the background. To the S. of the Cathedral in small cloister is the Chapter House, good E.E. with rich Norm. doorway. In the S.E. corner of Tom Quad is the magnificent staircase leading to the Hall, with its single slender column and fan tracery roof. The Hall itself is a splendid apartment, erected by Wolsey, and contains some very fine portraits by famous masters. Wolsey's great kitchen should be visited. An archway in N.E. corner of Tom Quad leads to Peckwater Quad, very fine classical work of Dean Aldrich (early 18th cent.). Here is the Library. Notable Christ Church men were Sir Philip Sidney, Lord Grenville (Prime Minister), Bolingbroke, Canning, Peel and Gladstone. Carfax is a few hundred yards up St Aldate's.

(2) **To Broad Street, the Sheldonian Theatre and New**

College. Leave Carfax by Cornmarket Street. At No. 3 on the r., on an upper floor is a *painted room* of Tudor date, open to the public. Just beyond is the arched entrance to the *Golden Cross Inn*, a typical old coaching inn, some of the buildings of which are 16th cent. Further down the street is the church of *St Michael's-at-Northgate*, with a Sax. or very early Norm. tower built by Robert d'Oili, who also built the Castle. Here the N. gate spanned the street and above it was the Bocardo Prison, so called from a figure in logic difficult to solve, hence a prison from which escape was difficult. Here Cranmer was imprisoned. Turn r. at traffic lights into *Broad Street*, running along the N. side of the City Wall, remains of which are behind the shops on S. side. In the middle of the road, a short distance down, is the actual site of the martyrdom of Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley, but they are commemorated nearby, in St Giles (see below). On the l. is *Balliol College*, founded 1266, the second oldest college, but the buildings are mostly modern, except the Library and former Dining Hall (15th cent.). Wycliffe, Evelyn the diarist, Matthew Arnold, Lord Asquith and Lord Grey of Fallodon were Balliol men. The famous Benjamin Jowett was Master in Victorian times. Adjoining Balliol on the E. is *Trinity College*, founded 1555, with beautiful chapel by Dean Aldrich in the Wren manner (late 17th cent.) with fine Grinling Gibbons carvings, and garden quad. by Wren; old buildings called Kettle Hall on street front (1615).

Opposite Trinity is Turl Street. A short way down on the r. of it is *Jesus College*, founded 1571, principally for Welshmen; the chapel and library are Jacobean. Opposite Jesus College is *Exeter College*, founded in 1314 by Walter de Stapledon, Bishop of Exeter, for west countrymen. There is a good Jacobean hall, but unfortunately the Jacobean chapel was destroyed in 1858 by Sir Gilbert Scott, who designed the present French Gothic chapel in imitation of the Sainte

Chapelle in Paris. It contains a famous tapestry of the Adoration of the Magi, by Burne-Jones.

Returning to Broad Street, at the end of it on the r. is a fine group of classical buildings, which may be said to constitute the nucleus of the University. The *Sheldonian Theatre* (by Wren, 1669), the gift of Archbishop Sheldon, is used for the holding of ceremonial functions and the conferring of degrees. It holds over 3000 people, contains some portraits by famous masters and has a magnificent painted ceiling depicting an allegorical design by Streeter, court painter to Charles I. On the W. side of the Theatre is the *Old Ashmolean Building*, the original home of the Ashmolean Museum; it now houses a collection of scientific instruments. To the E. of the Sheldonian is the *Clarendon Building* by Vanbrugh (1723), built to house the University Press, now transferred elsewhere. It was the gift of Lord Clarendon, Chancellor of the University, and was paid for out of the profits of his *History of the Rebellion* (the Civil War). The building now houses the University offices. Immediately to the S. of these buildings is the *Bodleian Library*, which is built round a quadrangle (early 17th cent.) on the E. side of which is a tower exhibiting five different orders of architecture, crowned by a statue of James I. On the opposite (W.) side of the quadrangle is the Proscholium or arcade leading to the *Divinity School*, with its magnificent stone vaulted roof. This was built in the second half of the 15th cent. by Duke Humphrey of Gloucester, son of Henry IV. On the floor above were housed his books, which were destroyed at the Reformation; Bodley subsequently refitted Duke Humphrey's buildings, incorporating them into his own.

At the end of Broad Street, turn r. into Catte Street and l. again beneath the bridge belonging to *Hertford College*, originally founded at Hart Hall in 1282, though nothing older than Jacobean work now survives. The bridge and new buildings are by Jackson and incorporate part of the medieval octagonal chapel of Our Lady by Smithe Gate, a postern which pierced the city wall at this point. Charles James Fox was a Hertford man. New College Lane runs beneath Hertford bridge to *New College*, founded by William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, in 1379. Its buildings are among the most beautiful in Oxford and date principally from the founder's time. In the chapel is a fine reredos with restored statues, some brasses and a famous W. window painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The tall bell-tower was used as a powder-magazine during the Civil War; the cloisters are of great beauty. Alongside runs a fine stretch of the City Wall (14th cent.).

Return to the junction of Broad Street and Holywell Street, at the N.W. corner of which is the new *Bodleian Extension* by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (1940). Walk a short distance N. along Parks Road to *Wadham College* on r., founded by Nicholas and Dorothy Wadham in 1613. It is a perfect example of very late Jacobean Gothic. The beautiful chapel has E. window glass by Van Ling (1621). Northwards along Parks Road again is the new *Rhodes House* on r. by Sir Herbert Baker (1929). It is a memorial to Cecil Rhodes and a centre for Rhodes Scholars, whom he endowed. Beyond this again on r. is the *University Museum* (1854) housing an important zoological collection. Opposite is *Keble College*, founded 1868, a Victorian experiment in variegated brick by Butterfield. The chapel has fine proportions and contains Holman Hunt's famous picture 'The Light of the World'. Turn l. into Keble Road, at the end of which is St Giles Church, with some good 13th-cent. work. Turn l. here into the broad street known as St Giles, lined pleasantly with trees and old houses. Its great width is utilised by a gigantic fair every September. Half-way down on the l. is *St John's College*, founded in 1555. At first it made use of the buildings of the suppressed St Bernard's College, dating from 1437 (street front and first quadrangle).

The inner quadrangle and very picturesque garden front beyond date from the reign of Charles I, when Archbishop Laud was President of the College. Note statues of the King and Queen Henrietta Maria by Le Sueur, which were somehow preserved during the Commonwealth. The chapel contains the graves of Laud and Bishop Juxon (see Chastleton, R. 13). At the bottom of the street is the *Martyrs' Memorial*, an early work of Sir Gilbert Scott, commemorating the third centenary of the triple martyrdom. Turn r. by this into *Beaumont Street*, a pleasant Regency thoroughfare, on the r. of which is the *Ashmolean Museum* (by Cockerell, 1840), containing many valuable collections of antiquities. At the far end of the street is *Worcester College*, founded in 1714, most of the buildings being of this date. Incorporated amongst them, however, are some delightful old monastic remains of Gloucester College, established in the late 13th cent. by various Benedictine Abbeys to house their students. Worcester gardens are of great beauty and are distinguished by Oxford's only lake. Return to Carfax via Beaumont Street and Cornmarket.

WALKS FROM OXFORD

(1) To Iffley Church, returning by the Thames towpath (total walking distance, 2 m.). Take bus No. 3 from Carfax to Iffley (Church Way). This is still a pleasant riverside village, though so near suburban development. At the far end of it (½ m.) is the church, one of the most splendid examples of a small late Norm. building in the country, dating from c. 1160. It is an aisleless building with a central tower and has come down to us practically unaltered from the time it was built, save for the insertion of some Perp. windows and the probable replacing of an apse by the present E.E. termination to the chancel. The W. front is particularly fine and exhibits a lavish profusion of zig-zag and beak-head ornamentation. Note also the very rich N. and S. doorways, as well as the tower arches. The chancel is vaulted and shows an interesting contrast between the Norm. W. bay and the E.E. eastern bay. The fine black marble Norm. font and an old yew in the churchyard should not be missed. A pleasant walk along the Thames towpath from Iffley Lock leads back to Folly Bridge, Oxford (1½ m.) passing the College barges, some of which are very handsome and were formerly state barges belonging to the City Livery Companies of London. This part of the river is curiously known as the Isis and it is this reach of it which is the course of the 'Torpids', which are bumping races rowed between college crews during the Easter Term, and the 'Eights', which are rowed during the Summer Term.

(2) To Wheatley via Shotover Hill. (This route is passable for cyclists and the cart-track over the top of the hill, though bad in places, is just passable for motorists. They can anyhow reach the top of the hill to obtain the view. Total walking distance, 3 m.)

Pedestrians should take a No. 2 bus to the Wingfield Hospital and at the terminus, turn l. at the grass island at the cross-roads into the Old Road, so called because this was the original road into Oxford from London until the 18th cent. In about ¼ m. the houses are left behind and the road becomes a shady lane, which climbs the steep slope of **Shotover Hill** (562 ft.). At the top, turn into the first field gate on r., from which there is a really magnificent view. By walking out into the field to the edge of the hill, a distant view over the towers and spires of Oxford can be obtained. Above there is the gap between Wytham Hill (r.) and Hurst Hill (l.) through which a still more distant view over the vast level of the upper Thames is visible. To the l. of Hurst Hill with its brick works chimneys and prominent clump of trees is the ridge of Boar's Hill, to the l. of which again is the long low wooded ridge of Bagley Wood. Below this is the vast industrial district of Cowley, but the view is on too big a scale to be spoilt by this ugly foreground. Above the ridge of Bagley Wood appears the long line of the Berks Downs with White Horse Hill on the extreme r. of it. Just above the motor works, in the middle distance between them and the downs, is another low wooded ridge, that of Nuneham Courtenay, 6 m. down the Thames from Oxford. To the l. of this again are the twin clumps of Wittenham on the Sinodun Hills (see R. 7) which form such a prominent landmark in so many views in this neighbourhood. Above these the Chilterns carry on the line of the Berks Downs eastwards and finally on the l. the view is closed by the tree-clad promontory of Shotover, upon which Garsington stands (see R. 8). The walk now continues along the flat top of the ridge, known as Shotover Plain. It is intriguing to imagine the many different travellers, rich mounted cavalcades or poor scholars tramping on foot to the University, who used this road until the present one, N. of the hill, was made for the stage-coaches in the 18th cent. It has also witnessed scenes of pageantry, as when Queen Elizabeth departed from Oxford after what proved to be her last visit there in 1592. Later, during the Civil War, the Royalist army was allowed by the Parliament to march out by this road, with the honours of war, drums beating and colours flying, while the troops were allowed to retain their weapons. This was in 1646. It is now a peaceful and deserted old highway remote from the bustle of modern traffic. A short distance along the ridge there is another fine view to the N. over the great level tract of Otmoor (see R. 9) with the hill of Brill in Bucks to the r. of it. After about 1 m. the track begins to descend gradually to **Wheatley**, on the outskirts of which, by the turn to Horspath (r.) is an old mounting-block. The 18th-cent. windmill on the hill to r. was last worked in 1913 and is now much dilapidated. In Wheatley itself there is nothing of interest save an old stone lock-up in the centre of the village, looking like the severed top of a church spire. At the far end of the village on the London road is the *Wheatley Bridge Hotel* (No. 2). From any point along this road a bus may be taken back to Oxford.

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(3) **To Boar's Hill via S. Hinksey, returning via N. Hinksey** (5½ m.). Take No. 4 bus from Carfax to New Hinksey and alight at Lake Street. Walk down this street, at the far end of which is a reservoir. On the bank of this stood Oxford's first railway station, a terminus opened in 1844 and abandoned altogether in 1872, when the present through line was constructed. The reservoir and railway should now be crossed by the footbridge, which gives a good view of the towers and spires of the city. After this the Hinksey stream, a loop of the Thames, here forming the boundary between Oxon and Berks, is crossed and in ¼ m. **S. Hinksey** is reached. Here keep r. through village and cross the Oxford western by-pass (the church is up a turn l., but is not of great interest; the tower is Perp., the nave has some E.E. work and the chancel is 18th cent.). Keep to the farm track as it ascends a hollow running up into the hills known as the Happy Valley. This is the Matthew Arnold country and readers of *The Scholar Gypsy* and *'Thyrsis'* will be able to recognise several landmarks mentioned. The first is Childsworth Farm passed on the r. about 1 m. up the valley:

> Runs it not there the track by Childsworth Farm?

Beyond the farm, the track ascends more steeply and passes through a gate on to the ridge. Across a field on the l. at this point is the queer umbrella-shaped tree known in the poem as 'The Signal Elm', though actually it is an oak. There are good views from this point of Shotover Hill and the Thames valley, though they are marred by the suburban developments of Cowley and Iffley. At the top of the hill the road running along the crest of **Boar's Hill** is joined. This most popular residential district has been the home of some well-known people, notably Dr Bridges, the late Poet

Laureate, and the late Sir Arthur Evans, the famous archaeologist, whose discoveries in Crete were of the highest importance. He constructed an artificial mound known as **Jarn Mound** in order that the magnificent view, formerly obtainable from Boar's Hill, but which had been lost owing to building developments and the growth of trees, might be regained. To reach this, turn l. at the point where the track by Chilswell Farm joins the road and shortly turn r. From the top of the mound a magnificent sweep of country is visible; on a clear day the line of the Chilterns may be followed far to the N.E. into Bucks, the Whiteleafe Cross at Princes Risborough being clearly visible, while to the S.E. the Berks Downs and the White Horse Hill are seen across the levels of the White Horse Vale.

Those wishing to return to Oxford may take a bus from the terminus starting from near Ripon Hall Theological college, a building with a tower, formerly the home of Lord Berkeley.

Returning from Jarn Mound to the top of the path from Chilswell Farm, keep along the road for a short distance until it turns l. at a junction where several private drives meet. Here turn r. past Pickett's Heath Farm and the Water Works on the r. and proceed through the pretty woodlands of Powder Hill Copse and Hen Wood. In the valley beyond is a junction of tracks by a gate.

††Here a path may be taken straight ahead for Hurst Hill and Chawley Brickworks (¾ m., see walk No. 4) from which a bus may be taken back to Oxford.††

To continue walk to Oxford, turn r. through gate and **N. Hinksey** is reached in 1 m., during the descent to which a beautiful view of the city is obtained. At N. Hinksey, cross the by-pass road to the church, which has a good Norm. S. door, but the chancel arch is a reproduction. In the churchyard is an old cross and a yew. Cross the bridge just below church which leads in ½ m. to the Ferry Hinksey Road. At the end of it is the Botley Road, from which a bus can be taken back to Oxford.

(4) **To N. Hinksey and Hurst Hill** (total walking distance, 2 m.). Take bus along Botley Road and alight at Ferry Hinksey Road. Nearly at the end of it, cross a small brick bridge on r. and in ½ m. the road leads across another bridge to **N. Hinksey** (see walk No. 3). Cross the by-pass road beyond church and take the right-hand track, which leads uphill for 1 m. From the top a fine view back over Oxford is to be had. In the opposite direction is **Hurst Hill** (525 ft.), with its small weather-beaten clump of firs. These are some of 'the warm green-muffled Cumnor hills' referred to by Matthew Arnold in *The Scholar Gypsy*, Cumnor village lying a short distance to the W. of Hurst Hill. Continue the walk to Chawley Brickworks, from which point a bus may be caught back to Oxford. A more frequent service is provided from the bottom of the hill (1 m. from the brickworks).

(5) **To Binsey, Godstow Nunnery and Wolvercote** (total walking distance, about 3 m.). Take a No. 3 bus from Carfax to Walton Street and alight at Walton Well Road. Walk down this road and over canal and railways to the great open space of **Port Meadow**, a flat expanse of wide pasture land, 1½ m. long, the property of the Freemen of Oxford. Follow the footpath across the lower end of the meadow and to the bridge over the river at Medley Weir. After crossing the river, follow the towpath for a short distance to the small village of **Binsey**, the only Oxfordshire parish on the Berkshire bank of the Thames.

††Those wishing to visit Binsey Church, cross the green to the Perch Inn, beyond which an avenue leads in ½ m. to the church. This is a small building with a good Trans. door ornamented with both zig-zag and dog-tooth. At the W. end of the church is the holy Well of St Margaret, said to have originated as the result of the prayers of St Frideswide, who retreated to this spot in order to escape the unwelcome

attentions of a prince, who was afterwards struck blind. To this well a stream of pilgrims once resorted.††

Continuing the walk alongside the Thames, **Godstow Nunnery** is reached in 1 m. These scanty ruins consist of a precinct wall enclosing an irregular space, at the S.E. corner of which are the ruins of a small chapel. This nunnery was consecrated in 1138 in the presence of King Stephen and later became famous as the retreat of Fair Rosamund, the mistress of Henry II; here she was buried in a gorgeous tomb. This aroused the ire of St Hugh of Lincoln, in whose diocese Oxford was then situated, and he indignantly ordered the tomb to be destroyed and Rosamund's body to be re-interred in the nuns' cemetery. Across the bridge, part of which is of medieval date, is the popular Trout Inn.

††The village of **Wytham**, the most northerly in Berks, is ½ m. along the road to the W. of Godstow. This is a charming old village lying under the wooded Wytham Hill. The church was rebuilt in 1814, the materials from the destroyed Cumnor Place (see R. 4) being used in the reconstruction, notably the Perp. doorways, some Dec. windows and the E. window, in which is some 17th-cent. Flemish glass. One of the corbels supporting the roof depicts a man playing the bagpipes. Wytham Abbey, which lies adjacent on the W., was formerly the seat of the Earls of Abingdon and now belongs to the University. A pleasant walk back to Oxford is to take the road to Botley (1½ m.) from which place take a No. 5 bus to Carfax.††

Continuing the walk from Godstow Bridge, the road skirts the N. edge of Port Meadow and presently crosses a branch of the river by a bridge, upon which is an interesting memorial to an early aeroplane crash in 1912. Pass through the village of Lower Wolvercote, beyond which the railway and canal are crossed. Here turn r. along the edge of the green and then l. at the Plough Inn and up the hill to **Wolvercote church.** This is now modernised, but contains the magnificent altar-tomb to Sir John Walter (1631), with recumbent effigies of himself and his two wives and kneeling effigies of his three sons and three daughters. He was the Chief Baron of the Exchequer to Charles I. A fine bust to his second son (1679) is in the N. aisle. He was Groom of the Bedchamber to Charles II and Lieutenant-General of the Ordnance, an office bestowed upon him as a reward for his services in the Civil War. There is also a Norm. font. Just beyond the church is the Woodstock Road, from which point a No. 4 bus may be taken back to Carfax.

Route 1. Oxford to the Cherwell Valley (circular route), 35 m.

The two northern exits from Oxford, starting from the great wide thoroughfare of St Giles, are the Banbury road and the Woodstock road, which bifurcate on either side of St Giles' Church. These two roads run a parallel course of 2 m. before the city suburbs are left behind. This route takes the Banbury road (r. of the church) and after passing through the suburb of Summertown, reaches **Kidlington** in 5 m. This consists of two parts, a stretch of sordid ribbon development that lines the highway for about 1 m., at the end of which is a turn r. leading to the other part, consisting of a pleasant street of stone-built and stone-roofed cottages, at the far end of which is the magnificent church, whose needle-like spire is a landmark for miles around this flat countryside. Oxfordshire is a county distinguished for its fine churches and Kidlington is an outstanding example. It was granted by Robert d'Oili, the Norman governor of Oxford, who was Lord of the Manor here, to the monks of Osney in 1074, who enriched and beautified it during the next four centuries. The cruciform church in consequence displays E.E. architecture in the crossing arches, Dec. in the very lovely S. porch, S. arcade and chancel with its chapels and finally Perp. in the tower and spire. Among the many features of interest should be noted the monks' stalls in the chancel and desks made from old bench ends, old Perp. screens (with 'confession holes') in the side chapels, and much 15th-cent. glass in the chancel as well as considerable remains of wall-painting in various places.

3 m. beyond Kidlington is the queerly-named, isolated inn known as *Sturdy's Castle*, where by turning r. the barren country so far traversed is exchanged for the lush greenery of the Cherwell valley at **Tackley**. The church here, principally E.E., contains two interesting monuments, one of which, in the N. transept, is to John Harborne, the Lord of the Manor and High Sheriff of the county (1632), who is shown kneeling at a desk together with his wife, their five sons and eight daughters. Those of the children who hold skulls predeceased their parents. The other monument of interest is in the S. transept and consists of a large figure of Justice by J. Bacon, R.A., commemorating the Hon. John Morton, Chief Justice of Chester (1780). Tackley is a pleasant village with a triangular green, to the l. of which is the Elizabethan gateway to the long-vanished Manor House. Keep r. of the green and at the far end of the village, l. at the telephone box for the Heyfords. In 1½ m. turn r. and in 1 m. the lodge of **Rousham Park** is passed on the r. The wall of this fine domain continues on the r. until the cross-roads by **Heyford Bridge** is reached, where turn r. From the bridge a fine view of Rousham House is obtained, together with the cupola of its stables, the dovecote and the church, as well as the beautiful grounds sloping down to the Cherwell, embellished by the famous 18th-cent. architect William Kent with numerous temples and colonnades, some of which are visible from the bridge. He also added the wings to the Jacobean house, which has been occupied by the Cottrell-Dormer family since the days of James I, when Sir Clement was groom-porter to that monarch.

Over the bridge is **Lower Heyford**, a charming stone-built village, whose church, reached down a turn l., is an interesting medley of various architectural styles. The road now climbs to a ridge overlooking the Cherwell valley on the l. which affords continuously beautiful views. After passing through Upper Heyford the imposing pinnacled tower of **Somerton** Church comes into view on the l. This church, standing on high ground at the top of the village, is of much interest, the outstanding treasure being the extremely interesting 14th-cent. reredos representing the Last Supper. St John is shown lying across the breast of Christ in a most curious attitude. On the N. side of the tower is a Calvary, which may have been executed by the same carver. The church is also notable for the tombs of the Fermor family in their private chapel behind a Jacobean screen; especially fine are the recumbent effigies in alabaster of Thomas Fermor (1580) and his wife, whose lap-dog is carved upon her skirt. Note also the shrouded figure of one of the children below. The church has a good Perp. rood-screen and many grotesque heads, both human and animal, carved upon the nave roof corbels, besides equally weird examples on the tower.

The road now descends to the valley and crosses the railway, canal and river before climbing the opposite side to **N. Aston**, a beautifully wooded village set round a green. The church is in the park adjoining the house and is reached by the drive gates to l. of green. The tower bears a carved figure representing the Almighty in majesty supported by angels, while in the church is the very fine alabaster tomb of John Anne and his wife (1416), on the sides of which are some quaint figures of monks and angels.

Beyond the village, turn l. along a pleasant road running S. giving views over the valley from the opposite side from those previously obtained between Heyford and Somerton. In 1 m. turn l. at the hamlet of Middle Aston and after ½ m. is **Steeple Aston**, a large stone-built village very characteristic of this part of Oxfordshire. The church here is chiefly

E.E. and has a Perp. screen, some good modern stained-glass by Kemp and a good monument by the famous 18th-cent. Flemish sculptor Scheemacker of Justice Page and his wife (1741). He was stigmatised by Pope as 'a hanging judge'.

††Down a lane (suitable only for cyclists or pedestrians), which turns l. opposite the *Dun Cow*, is a pleasant valley overlooking which is a most curious structure looking like a Roman triumphal arch at a distance, but actually an 18th-cent. 'folly' known as the 'eye-catcher', designed by William Kent to complete the vista visible from Rousham House.††

Turn r. at the church and shortly after leaving village, turn l. on to the main Oxford–Banbury Road. In a short distance *Hopcroft's Holt*, an excellent hotel (No. 2) called after a highwayman, is reached. From this point it is 12 m. back to Oxford, by the direct road. A more interesting way, 4 m. further round, is as follows: Take road (B 4030) opposite the hotel. ††In ¾ m. a lane l. leads quickly to **Steeple Barton,** an old village deeply embowered in trees. Turn l. at the tree on a grass island to reach the church, which contains a most remarkable series of grotesque heads carved upon the capitals of the early Dec. arcade. They are a local characteristic in these parts and are well worth seeing, since they show the great versatility of the medieval mason's art and illustrate to an extraordinary degree his quaint sense of humour. To return to the main road, take turn labelled 'Barton' at the island tree.††

2 m. along the main road from Hopcroft's Holt is **Westcott Barton,** which is prettily placed in the valley of the Dorne stream. The church on l. is Perp. and contains a good rood-screen of this date, as well as a Norm. arcade and font. Take l. fork just beyond church and ¼ m. beyond, turn l. for Oxford (13 m.).

††At the next cross-roads, another pleasant detour of 3 m. can be made into the beautifully wooded Glyme valley. It is a picturesque detour and worth making on account of the silvan character of the scenery. Two interesting churches lie on the route, but both are situated in private parks, though easy enough to find if the following directions are studied. At the cross-roads, turn r. down steeply wooded lane to **Kiddington** (which should not be confused with Kidlington). At the bottom turn r. for church by stone wall and through drive gates of the Hall. Proceed up drive and take r. fork near house and the church is soon reached on the l. It is chiefly Dec. with a very beautiful font of that date. There is a rich late Norm. chancel arch, a restored apse and an exterior corbel-table of carved heads. Kiddington village is beautifully placed in the richly wooded valley of the Glyme, which is crossed just after passing the turning to the Hall. Some thatched cottages are charmingly situated on the l.; they are rather rare in this region of stone roofs. At the top of the hill is **Over Kiddington,** with an old cross on the r., and shortly afterwards, turn l. on to the main road A 34. Very soon, turn l. again off it into road B 4027. The beautifully wooded estate of **Glympton Park** is now on the l. At the arched entrance gateway, through which is a public right of way, the park should be entered for the sake of the beautiful view over the Glyme valley from just beside the gates. The church, adjoining the house, is a short distance down the drive. It has a fine Norm. chancel arch and contains a very handsome Jacobean coloured tomb with kneeling effigies to Thomas and Maud Teesdale (1616). From the lodge the main road descends into the village of Glympton, which is also embowered amongst beautiful old trees. Here the Glyme is again crossed and a turn taken r. for Wootton.††

If the above detour is not taken, **Wootton** is reached in 4 m. from Westcott Barton. This is a stone-built village in a most striking situation, with its streets descending precipitously into the Glyme valley. In order to reach the main part of the village, turn r. at the *Killingworth Castle Inn*, just at the beginning of it. The church has a fine E.E. porch, and opposite, as one enters the building, is a good Georgian Royal Arms, embodying the lilies of France and the white horse of Hanover. To reach Oxford, turn l. by the church, and soon after leaving the village the Dorne valley is crossed and road B 4027 joined. This is followed until it meets the Banbury–Oxford road, where turn r. and Oxford is reached in 8 m.

Route 2. Oxford to Great Tew and Enstone, returning via Charlbury and Woodstock, 42 m.

Follow the Banbury road for 14 m. until a cross-roads 2 m. beyond Hopcroft's Holt is gained. Here turn l. along a pleasant country lane with a wide view to the N. over the valley of the Worton Brook, the tower of Deddington Church (see R. 10) being prominent on the opposite ridge. **Duns Tew** is the first village reached, and here the Dec. church has a N. arcade, whose capitals are adorned with heads, a feature peculiar to this district. Fork l. just beyond the village; then for another 4½ m. the road follows the ridge, turning l. and shortly r. at the small hamlet of Ledwell. At **Great Tew** cross-roads, turn r. and almost at once on the r. is the entrance to the church, through a pair of 18th-cent. stone rusticated gateposts. The church is approached down a long walk, the wall of the Manor House being on the l. and a laurel hedge on the r. It is entirely surrounded by beautiful old trees. The style of the church is chiefly Dec. with a Norm. S. doorway, an E.E. porch and a good Perp. tower. The interior contains a Perp. font and 15th-cent. pews. In the N. aisle is the recumbent effigy of a lady of 14th-cent. date and eastwards, behind a screen, is another of an armed figure, c. 1320. The chancel contains a noble brass to Sir John Wilcotes (1410), a beautiful sculptured monument by Chantrey and a symbolic representation of the Trinity on a brass on S. wall. There is also a modern tablet commemorating Lucius Cary, Lord Falkland, who was killed at the first battle of Newbury in 1643 (see Newbury). He lived at the adjacent manor-house, which was burnt down in 1790, but was afterwards rebuilt.

The village of Great Tew, which lies at the bottom of the hill below the church and manor-house, is certainly one of the most beautiful in Oxfordshire and would also rank high in a list of beautiful English villages. It lies embowered amongst some magnificent old timber, and set around the picturesque green are the brown stone cottages with their roofs of either stone or thatch, their mullioned windows filled with diamond panes and their charming little gardens. Opposite the *Falkland Arms* are the old stocks.

From Great Tew, take the Enstone road, which traverses high, rolling country and is lined for most of the way by magnificent beeches. Approaching **Enstone**, turn r. at the cross-roads (B 4030, Chipping Norton). The church and the old tithe barn to the W. of it are set back behind some houses on the r., which form the village of Church Enstone.

The church has a handsome Perp. porch with parvise over, the vaulting being ornamented with grotesque heads. This leads to a fine Norm. doorway. The S. arcade is Trans., the N. arcade and chancel E.E. and the tower Perp. Note old stone altar still in position with its original reredos in S. chapel, a very rare survival, which passed unscathed through the stormy period of the Reformation. There is also a good coloured kneeling effigy of Stevens Wisdom (1633), some old chained books and an old chest. The old tithe-barn, a short distance to the W., was built in 1382 by the Abbot of Winchcombe, Glos., as recorded by a Latin inscription near the S.W. corner (exterior) of the barn, now much worn. The Abbots of Winchcombe were patrons of the living until the Dissolution.

The road descends sharply from the church into and across a small valley, beyond which take next turn l., turning

l. again into the village street of Enstone itself by the *Harrow Inn.* Enstone, being at the junction of several main roads, was a great coaching centre and contained several large inns, where there was much bustle and entertainment of travellers, bands playing every night. The old *Litchfield Arms*, a typical solid-looking coaching hostelry, still remains an inn, but most of the others have become private houses. Turn r. at the telephone-box for Charlbury and r. at the next crossroads at the top of the hill. Here, in a small copse between the Charlbury and Fulwell roads, stands the *Hoar Stone* (the name means 'ancient stone'). This is a prehistoric monolith 9 ft. high, which, together with two fallen stones, is what remains of a cromlech, or burial chamber.

1 m. beyond the Hoar Stone, fork r. for **Taston,** a pretty little hamlet with the remains of an old cross on l. where the road bends r. and, in the bank of the lane, opposite to it, another prehistoric monolith known as the Thor Stone, but less impressive than the Hoar Stone. A short distance beyond Taston is **Spelsbury,** whose church, on the r., has several interesting monuments, notably one 'to the happie memorie of Sir Henry Lee' (1631), as the inscription states, on the N. side of the chancel. It is a fine tomb, with recumbent effigies of Sir Harry and his wife, a son and three daughters kneeling at opposite ends, the whole surmounted by a canopy bearing figures representing Time and Death. He lived at Ditchley, a noble estate, 2 m. to the E. of Spelsbury, where royalty was often entertained, but the original Elizabethan mansion was replaced in 1722 by the present mansion by Gibbs, architect of St Martin's-in-the-Fields. Sir Henry's descendant, Sir Edward Lee, was created Earl of Litchfield and married Charlotte Fitzroy, favourite daughter of Charles II. Their monument is on the S. side and a long epitaph eulogises their married bliss; they were the parents of thirteen sons and five daughters. Adjoining this is a handsome monument by William Tyler, R.A., to the third Earl (1776), with a cherub standing in an oak tree. Opposite is another monument by Tyler to Robert, Earl of Litchfield (1776). Quite apart from the interest of its monuments, Spelsbury Church is worth seeing, since it has a good Norm. tower and E.E. arcades.

1 m. from Spelsbury is the small town of **Charlbury,** of no particular note, but lying in a pleasant situation in the Evenlode valley on the confines of the old Wychwood Forest (see R. 14). At the far end of the town, take road forking l. (B 4437) for Woodstock (6 m., see R. 3) and Oxford (14 m.).

Route 3. Oxford to Blenheim Park and Woodstock, 8 m.

Leave Oxford by the Woodstock road (A 34), forking l. at St Giles Church. The city extends for another 2 m. beyond this point before the open country is reached. From this point the road has been modernised and double tracked for some miles. ††At **Begbroke** (4 m.), just beyond the *Royal Sun Inn*, on the l., turn down narrow lane on l. and into another shortly on r., for the very beautiful little Norm. church with richly carved S. doorway and chancel arch. The church also possesses a Norm. tower of the 'saddleback' type (gabled at top) and contains numerous panels of 17th-cent. glass and a Georgian Royal Arms.††

The old town of **Woodstock** (*Marlborough Arms* and *King's Arms*, both in main street and *The Bear*, in Park Street, all No. 2) has been made famous by Sir Walter Scott in his novel of that name. Henry I built a palace here and it was visited by every subsequent monarch until James II. Here Princess Elizabeth was kept in custody by her sister Mary, later visiting it in state as Queen. In the Civil War, it was garrisoned for the King, but surrendered finally to the Parliament in 1646. The last remains of the old palace were finally destroyed when the great palace of Blenheim was being erected. The town has long been famous for the manufacture of gloves, a trade which still survives to a small extent. The church is in Park Street and has a handsome classical tower erected in 1785. The S. doorway is Norm. and the S. arcade late E.E., with remarkable capitals showing both typical 'stiff-stalk' foliage and a series of grotesque male heads; they are characteristic of this locality, but these are the earliest examples to be found. Park Street contains a number of picturesque old 18th-cent. shop fronts and leads to the great Triumphal Arch opening into **Blenheim Park.** This, together with the great palace that it surrounds, was the gift of the nation to the victorious Duke of Marlborough after the battle of Blenheim in 1704, Parliament voting a sum of £500,000 for its erection, though not more than half of this was ever paid. The task was entrusted to Sir John Vanbrugh, the most famous architect of his day. This, and Castle Howard, in Yorkshire, are considered his two finest works, and it was the erection of these two great buildings which prompted Dr Abel Evans to compose the famous epigram:

> Lie heavy on him, earth, for he
> Laid many a heavy load on thee.

The progress of the work was hindered from the first by the bad relations existing between the Duchess and the architect, resulting in constant friction. The Duke died in 1722, while the work was still unfinished. After his death, the Duchess completed the palace at a cost of £300,000 paid out of her own purse. It is a princely building in the Italian Renaissance style and its chief rooms are decorated with paintings by Laguerre, but many of its art treasures were sold in 1886. During the second World War, the boys of Malvern College occupied the palace for a time, since when it has been in government occupation and is not at present open to the public.

The Triumphal Arch, by which the park is entered from

the town, was erected by the Duchess in memory of her husband. Immediately upon passing through, a very beautiful and entirely unsuspected view is revealed. The ground falls sharply away on the r. to the lake, spanned by the graceful arch of the bridge which Vanbrugh threw across the valley of the Glyme, whose waters 'Capability' Brown, the great landscape gardener of the 18th cent., dammed up so effectively to form the lake. The result is a really exquisite though artificially formed piece of scenery. Beyond are luxuriant woodlands, while to the l., in this magnificent setting, stands the great palace.

The park is always open, but the gardens are shown only on Tues., Weds. and Thurs., from 12–4.30, adm. 2/–. They are entered by a gate to the E. of the palace and are most delightful. The sunken Italian garden is first entered, beyond which, to the S., the park stretches away towards the lake, at the foot of which is the cascade, another artificially constructed but still highly picturesque piece of scenery. About half-way between the palace and the cascade is a very beautiful rosery, in the middle of which is a fountain. The banks of the lake are delightfully wooded with all kinds of fine old timber, ancient twisted oaks, majestic cedars and magnificent beeches. In this part of the grounds are two temples, while another, that of Artemis or Diana, lies to the E. of the palace.

Across the bridge, to the N.W. of the park, is the Column of Victory, which was erected by the Duchess to the Duke's memory. To the l. of the bridge on the far side is Fair Rosamund's Well, the traditional site of the bower frequented by the famous mistress of Henry II. Some ruins remained here until the time of the Civil War, when they were demolished, lest they might give cover to troops attacking the old palace, which stood further to the N., on the r., as one crosses the bridge towards the Column of Victory. In the S.W. part of the park is the High Lodge, a castellated building with a tower, Tudor in origin. This is the residence of the Rangers of Woodstock.

A whole day may be happily spent at Blenheim, but if it is desired to continue with the extension of the route as below, turn back towards Oxford for 1 m. and then turn r. into A 4095. Wootton, Glympton and Kiddington are in the immediate neighbourhood (see R. 1).

Route 3a. Oxford to Witney via the Evenlode valley, returning via S. Leigh, 30 m.

Proceed as in R. 3 as far as Begbroke, 3 m. beyond which and 1 m. short of Woodstock is a turn l. (A 4095) for **Bladon,** a village in the wooded valley of the Evenlode. Just beyond it the river is crossed at a bridge which has an association with the Civil War, for over it Charles and the royalist army marched in their strategic retreat from Oxford in 1644, by which they escaped the armies of Essex and Waller, which were trying to cut them off.

Just over 1 m. beyond is the village of **Long Hanborough.** Here two interesting short diversions from this route present themselves, if desired, as follows:

††From the cross in the centre of Long Hanborough, turn l. for **Church Hanborough,** which is 1 m. down the road. This is an extremely fine building and well worth seeing. It is crowned by a noble Perp. spire, and the main features of the building are mainly in this style, notably the impressive nave and the glorious old screen which runs right across the church and still retains its rood-loft. The oak pulpit and font bearing the emblems of the Passion are also Perp. Exceptions to this style are the E.E. arches upon which the tower rests, the chancel, also E.E., and the Norm. aisle walls with their original windows and N. and S. doorways. The N. door is particularly elaborate, with a figure of St Peter with those of a lion and lamb in the tympanum. Note in the chancel a fine tomb recess, in which is the brass of Alexander Belsyre (1567), first President of St John's College, shown in a shroud.

Returning once more to Long Hanborough cross, a turn r. just beyond the modern church can be taken to **Combe** (1½ m.) and **Stonesfield** (3 m.), both delightful villages, differing greatly from each other. The road first descends into the Evenlode valley and on the far side of it is the railway. Turn l. just below the bridge adjoining Combe Halt and the village is at the top of the hill. **Combe** is a charming and picturesque village of grey stone cottages round a green, in the centre of which is a great oak. Keep r. of this for the church, which is of much interest and will be found set back behind cottages by the telephone box. It is a building erected by the monks of Eynsham in the Perp. style in 1395, and has a remarkable stone pulpit of that period, a great rarity. But the supreme interest of the church is the series of wall paintings, the principal of which is the 'Doom' over the chancel arch. Just to the N. of the chancel arch is a very lovely Crucifixion, adjoining which is the doorway to the now destroyed rood-loft. On the S. wall over the doorway was a gigantic figure of St Christopher, but this is now destroyed. The fish in the river, in which the saint is always shown wading, still survive, however, on either side of the doorway. In the 17th cent., over the figure of St Christopher were painted those of Moses (l.) and Aaron (r.) with the Commandments between them. That of Moses has been ruined by the insertion of a stove-pipe, but that of Aaron is still discernible. The beautiful old font, long desecrated and alienated from the church, is now preserved in it. Note also old glass with figures of angels in the N. and E. windows.

To reach **Stonesfield,** take the road to l. of the green on entering Combe (or road to r. of it coming from Combe church) and turn l. just beyond it at a red-roofed cottage, an unusual sight in these parts. Stonesfield is soon visible standing bleakly upon its hill, and on entering village turn

l. by the cross and soon l. again for the church. Just by the churchyard gate is an old stone lock-up. The church is E.E. and the capitals of the chancel arch have fine 'stiff-stalk' foliage. The village is chiefly famed, however, for the now abandoned quarries, which lie down the hill W. of the church. These were once famous for the production of roofing-tiles, known all over the county as 'Stonesfield slates', which form the mellow old stone roofs which are such a feature of this district. Many oolite fossils have been found in these quarries.††

From Long Hanborough continue along main road for 1 m., when another diversion can be made by turning r. for the *Roman Villa.* ††This may be reached by turning r. at signpost with letter-box to East End and very shortly, r. again for about 1 m. until the *New Inn* is passed. Shortly beyond this is a steep, narrow lane, r., marked 'Lower Riding Farm'. Motorists are advised to leave their cars at this point, as the lane is rough and there is no turning-point by the villa. This is situated at the bottom of the hill on r. near the railway. The site was excavated many years ago, but is now grass-grown except for one room containing a tesselated pavement. The key for this can be obtained at the cottage (adm. 3*d.*). The pavement has tesserae of three colours and at one end of it the hypocaust or heating system is exposed. Fragments of stone columns are also preserved here.††

Continuing along the main road for another ½ m. there is another turning, r. opposite the N. gate of Eynsham Park, for **N. Leigh.**

††This is a pleasant upland village and still retains a windmill now disused. Just beyond the *Mason's Arms*, turn r. down hill for the church, at the bottom on the l. This most remarkable building illustrates every style of architecture from the Sax. of the tower to the 18th-cent. classic of the N. aisle. The tower was once central, as the blocked arches at its base show, but the church was later rebuilt entirely to the E. of it. The S. doorway represents the Norm. and the nave arcades the Trans. styles, while some Dec. windows and the very beautiful Wilcote Chapel with its fan-tracery roof (Perp.) illustrate those styles. Finally there is the 18th-cent. Perrot Chapel to complete the tale. The Wilcote Chapel contains the alabaster effigies of Lady Elizabeth Blackett, but whether the male effigy is that of her first husband, Sir William Wilcote, or of her second, Sir John Blackett, is uncertain. Both effigies wear the 'S.S.' collar, which was the badge of Henry IV (1399–1413) and also of the Lancastrian party during the Wars of the Roses.††

Resuming the journey along the main road at Eynsham Park gates, **Witney** (*Fleece* and *Marlborough Arms*, both No. 2) is reached in 3 m. (14 from Oxford by this route). This is an old stone-built town on the Windrush and is well known for its manufacture of blankets. In the centre of the town is the picturesque old structure known as the Butter Cross, with its gabled roof supported by thirteen stone columns (1683). Beyond this is Church Green, at the far end of which the church itself, with its tall E.E. spire, is well placed. It is a magnificent building and its beauty is probably due to the Bishops of Winchester, who held the manor here from pre-Conquest days until the present century. It is entered by a good Trans. doorway and porch, above which a Perp. parvise has been built, which has a curious cornice showing figures of animals. Most of the church dates from the E.E. period, but has undergone a great many alterations in the Dec. style, particularly the extension of the transepts. A bomb seriously damaged the very beautiful Dec. window of the N. Transept. Below it are two richly ornamented canopied niches containing a male and a female recumbent effigy. In the S. transept is a brass to Richard Wenman, wool merchant (1500) and his two wives. In the Wenman Chapel, N. of nave, is much 'ball-flower' ornamentation and a recumbent effigy of a priest.

To return to Oxford, follow main road A 40, which turns r. at the cross-roads leaving the town and enters the suburb of Newland. ††In ½ m., just beyond the *Griffin Inn*, a small lane, r., leads quickly to the hamlet of **Cogges.** Here is a particularly beautiful Dec. church, formerly the property of the monks of Fécamp in Normandy, some of whom lived at the vicarage, N. of the church, while serving it, and also owned the Manor House, to the S.E. of the church. Both these buildings retain some E.E. features. The church itself is a very ornate building with rich tracery in the windows and a curious little tower, set oddly at the N.W. corner, with an octagonal top and cap. The richest part of the church is the chantry chapel N. of the chancel, where there is much 'ball-flower' ornamentation and a cornice depicting grotesque animals. Here is the altar-tomb with effigy of a lady of the Grey family of Rotherfield (see Henley-on-Thames), also the tomb of William Blake (1695), with busts of himself, his wife and his son.††

The distance between Witney and Oxford by the main road is 11 m. It is a somewhat dull road, but various interesting places lie on either side of it.

††1¼ m. from Witney is a turn r. for **S. Leigh.** The church with its very fine wall-paintings is up a lane (l.) on entering the village. The church retains some Norm. and E.E. work in the chancel, but the nave with its wall-paintings is of the Perp. period. The Doom occupies the usual position over the chancel arch, with a most spirited representation of the descent of the damned into the mouth of Hell, into which they are being drawn by a chain. On the N. wall is the Heavenly Jerusalem, showing much interesting medieval architecture, and on the S. wall the Weighing of Souls. The paintings were somewhat over-restored after their discovery in 1872, but are nevertheless of great interest, though vast strides have since been made in the science of wall-painting restoration. To return to the main road, keep on through village, and at level crossing, keep straight on leaving it on the r., rejoining the main road at the S. gate of Eynsham Park, where turn r.††

Just over 4 m. from Witney is the *Evenlode House Hotel* (No. 2), the village of **Eynsham** lying to the r. of the main road just beyond it. This place formerly boasted a large Benedictine abbey, but not a trace of it now remains. In the centre of the large village is an old cross and the church, which is a handsome Perp. building.

Proceeding along the main road, there is a view (r.) of the wooded Wytham Hill, just across the Thames, which is the most northerly point in Berks. 2 m. beyond the turn to Eynsham is **Cassington,** where turn l. The church here is a good Norm. building with a Dec. spire added and contains some of the old Jacobean stalls removed from Oxford Cathedral. Continue through the pretty village with its cottages, some of them stone built and thatched roofed, set round a green, and not far beyond turn r. for **Yarnton.** After passing a tree on an island, turn r. down lane for the extremely interesting church, which adjoins the fine old manor-house, built by the Spencer family in 1612. The church, originally Norm., of which style some windows remain, was rebuilt in E.E. times. The most striking additions are, however, the tower and Spencer chapel, which were added between 1611–6 by Sir Thomas Spencer. The latter is divided from the S. aisle by a noble Jacobean screen and contains the splendid tomb of Sir Thomas Spencer (1685) with marble statues of himself, his wife and his son, also the coloured recumbent effigies of Sir William and Lady Margaret Spencer. Other Jacobean work includes the pulpit, reading-desk and another screen below the tower, bearing the Royal Arms dated 1634. The old glass of which there is a great quantity in the church is partly medieval and partly Flemish of 17th-cent. date; it was bequeathed to the church by Alderman Fletcher of Oxford, whose tomb is in the nave. He also bequeathed the reredos, which was found concealed in an old house in Oxford. It has four alabaster panels depicting (l. to r.) the Nativity, Betrayal, Christ carrying the Cross and the Deposition, and is a treasure of medieval ecclesiastical art. Just beyond Yarnton the Woodstock road (A 34) is joined at the *Grapes Inn*, from which point Oxford is 4 m. distant.

Route 4. Oxford to Stanton Harcourt and Bampton, returning via Newbridge, 33 m.

This route leads across a loop of Berks through Cumnor to the flat country of W. Oxfordshire. Though not distinguished by any fine scenery, the route lies through pleasant stone-built villages with some churches of outstanding architectural interest. Leave Oxford past the stations and along the Botley road. At the far end of Botley village, fork l. up Cumnor Hill and r. at the top to **Cumnor**, a charming old village with a fine church. To the N. of this stood Cumnor Hall, which will always be associated with the tragic death, in 1560, of Amy Robsart, so dramatically described in Scott's *Kenilworth*, though much of his writing is probably fictitious. The mystery, however, of the finding of the dead body of Amy Robsart at the foot of a staircase with its neck broken, will now never be cleared up. The salient fact is that her death would have made possible a marriage between her husband, Lord Robert Dudley, afterwards the Earl of Leicester, and Queen Elizabeth. The Hall, once a grange of the monks of Abingdon, was entirely cleared away in 1810. In the church is the tomb of Anthony Forster (1572), who is said to have been responsible for the murder in the absence of Lord Dudley, who is supposed to have instigated the crime. Curiously enough the church also contains a statue of Queen Elizabeth, which once stood in Cumnor Park. The church itself is of great interest architecturally, having a good Trans. tower and chancel arch and various later features. Note also a most interesting Jacobean staircase to belfry dated 1685, pulpit, Manorial pew and chancel rails in the same style, a chained Bible of 1611 and two Elizabethan brasses in the Sanctuary. The effigies of two Abbots of Abingdon lie under recesses in the S. transept. The village inn has the sign 'The Bear and Ragged Staff', significant as being the badge of the Earls of Leicester.

Take Appleton road out of Cumnor and in 1 m. turn r. for Eaton, 1 m. beyond which is the picturesque *Bablock Hythe Ferry*, referred to by Matthew Arnold in *The Scholar Gypsy* (see *Walks round Oxford*):

> Crossing the stripling Thames at Bablock Hythe.

The river is very pretty here, flowing through flat country and overhung by willows. A barge worked by a rope conveys cars across (6*d*.). 2 m. beyond is **Stanton Harcourt**, a charming village of great interest. On the l. approaching it is an aerodrome and underneath it, buried where they stood, are the three mysterious monoliths known as 'The Devil's Quoits' which, when the aerodrome is no longer required, are to be re-erected. The Harcourt family held the manor from the 12th cent. until 1711, when Nuneham Courtenay became their seat. Their manor-house at Stanton has been demolished save for the great kitchen with conical roof resembling that at Glastonbury Abbey, and Pope's Tower (Perp.), where the poet Pope had a study in which he translated a part of Homer. Unfortunately these interesting relics are situated in a private garden, but they are visible from the churchyard. The church is a handsome cruciform building, originally Norm., the nave and lower part of the tower being good plain work of that date, and the upper part of the tower being Perp. The chancel is beautiful E.E. and has a screen of that date, believed to be one of the earliest of its kind in England. It also contains a Dec. tomb with richly-carved canopy, formerly an Easter Sepulchre, and a graceful alabaster effigy of Maud, wife of Sir Thomas Harcourt (1394). Many more of their memorials are in the S. chapel and especially noteworthy is that of Sir Robert and Lady Margaret Harcourt (1471), both of whom wear the Order of the Garter. Only two other ladies in England are thus depicted on their monuments. Note also another tomb with handsome busts to Philip Harcourt (1688) and his wife. On the S. side of the church is an epitaph by Pope to two rustic lovers who were killed by lightning when the poet was staying at the Manor in 1718. Leave the village, noting the old stocks, and take the road (l.) for Ducklington, shortly forking l. past some gravel pits. After about 2½ m., cross the Windrush at Hardwick. At the cross-roads, turn r. on to road A 415, which runs beside the Windrush (r.) and Coke-thorpe Park, with its old chapel (l.) containing a fine Norm. font, for another 2 m. to **Ducklington.**

This is an extremely charming stone-built village with a pond, around which are grouped some old stone cottages and the church. This is a fine building with some magnificently elaborate Dec. work in the N. aisle. Here are two richly-carved recesses with canopies for the founders' tombs, while above, on either side of the chapel, are carved on the walls a series of sculptures depicting scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary, the Annunciation (over N. arcade) the Nativity (N.E. corner) and the salutation of Elizabeth (N. wall). The S. arcade is Trans. and the chancel E.E. Note the 18th-cent. pulpit and an old painting of the Trinity on the splay of the E. window of the S. aisle.

Leave Ducklington by taking road opposite War Memorial for Bampton. At Aston (3 m.) turn r. for **Bampton** (1½ m.). This is a small town situated in flat country, across which may be seen from all directions the fine spire of the parish church. The earliest part of this beautiful church is the Sax. chancel arch showing herring-bone work. The church was rebuilt in Norm. times; of this remains the rich S. doorway and various windows in the transepts and chancel. The crossing arches are Trans., the nave, tower and spire being E.E. The W. doorway is beautiful Dec. work and the clerestory and S. porch are Perp. This church therefore represents every architectural style from the Sax. of the 11th cent. to the Perp. of the 15th; four centuries of constant growth and development. To the W. of the church is a fine old Elizabethan house known as the Deanery, which was formerly the summer residence of the Deans of Exeter. They still hold the right of presentation to the living. Bampton has been famed for centuries for its Morris-dancing, which still continues with unabated vigour.

[Bampton is 17 m. from Oxford by the above route: 2 m. further on is **Black Bourton** (so-called since it was once possessed by the Black Canons of Osney Abbey, Oxford). The church here – to reach which, turn r. in village up Carterton Road for short distance – possesses some very excellent examples of 13th-cent. wall paintings, those most easily identified being the Coronation of the Virgin Mary, the Baptism of Christ, and SS Peter and Paul, all being on the N. wall of the nave. Besides this, the church, while chiefly E.E., has an effigy of Elinor Hungerford (1592), a good Perp. stone pulpit and, on the S. exterior, a very fine early type of sundial known as a mass-dial, which enabled the priest in medieval times to know when to begin the various daily services.]

Leave Bampton on return journey by the same route as that used on outward journey as far as Aston. Here turn r. past the church and in 3 m. turn r. (into B 4449) at the *Golden Balls* on entering **Standlake.** This is a long village of pleasant stone cottages. [To reach church and Northmoor continue straight down village street and then turn l. down another long street. At the end of it turn l. again and the church is reached shortly on l. It is a cruciform E.E. building with a Dec. spire and is a good example of its style. To reach

Northmoor, turn round at church, cross the Windrush on leaving village and continue for 1 m. **Northmoor** Church is mixed E.E. and Dec. and is cruciform with a Perp. tower. In the N. transept are two fine effigies of a knight and lady under recesses, above which are wall paintings showing their souls ascending to heaven and a quaint figure on W. wall of Robert Lydall (1721), the donor of the bells, and of the old ringers' gallery dated 1701. To the S.E. of the church is the charming old Elizabethan house, formerly the rectory, with its dovecote, without which no country house of importance was complete in Tudor times. The return to Oxford may be made either by continuing on for 1 m. and turning r. to Bablock Hythe Ferry, or by turning round at church and taking turn l. for Newbridge.]

Those not visiting Standlake church and Northmoor should proceed straight through village to **Newbridge** (1 m.). Here, in spite of its name, is probably one of the oldest bridges over the Thames, with six pointed niches and triangular cutwaters on the upstream side. It was captured by the Parliamentary forces during the Civil War in 1644, causing the King, then established at Oxford, to retreat northwards. Newbridge is an extremely pleasant spot at the confluence of the Windrush and Thames, and here is a popular inn with the charming sign of 'The Rose Revived' (No. 2), an allusion to the fact that for some years it ceased to be an inn. Unfortunately rebuilding has robbed the inn itself of much of its former rustic charm.

2 m. beyond Newbridge, turn l. for **Appleton** (Berks), the church of which has some good Trans. arcades and some interesting debased 17th-cent. work. There is a fine Elizabethan tomb to Sir John Fettiplace (1593). The Fettiplace family lived in the moated manor-house W. of the church, which contains some arches of c. 1200 and thus must be one of the oldest inhabited houses in England. Oxford is reached in 6 m.

Route 5. Oxford to the White Horse Vale and the Berks Downs via Faringdon, returning via Wantage, 50 m.

Leave Oxford by the Botley road past the stations and at foot of Cumnor Hill, beyond Botley village, fork l. At the top of the hill begins the fine view of the Berks Downs that is with us all the way. At 5 m. from Oxford is **Bessels Leigh**, with a small church on r. of road after passing the *Greyhound Inn*. It is E.E. and contains many relics of the Lenthall family, former owners of the park in which it stands. The most famous member of the family was Speaker Wm. Lenthall of the Long Parliament during the Civil War. Beyond Bessels Leigh keep r. at fork along A 420 to **Fyfield**. Here is a good inn (the *White Hart*, No. 3) and an old manor-house and church. The former was built c. 1325 by John Golafre and has some oaken Dec. windows of a rare type; the E. part is 17th cent. The house is private but is well seen from the churchyard. The church has a very good Dec. chancel with beautiful sedilia and piscina with carved canopies. In the chancel is the Tudor tomb to Lady Catherine Gordon, wife of the rebel Perkin Warbeck in the reign of Henry VII. On N. side of church is the Golafre chantry with magnificent tomb of Sir John Golafre (1442). Below his armed effigy lies a gruesome shrouded skeleton, a type of tomb known as a 'Memento Mori' (Remember Death). Beyond Kingston Bagpuize, the next village, is an old toll-house on l., a picturesque building with thatched roof and rounded front.

The road now continues to Faringdon along a slight ridge with wide views (l.) across the White Horse Vale to the Downs. A chain of charming stone-built villages lies on both sides of the road, but none are actually situated upon it. [These villages may be visited if desired and are as follows: **Longworth**, 1 m. to N. of road. Here is an interesting church with a good view N. over the upper Thames valley from its churchyard. The church itself is chiefly E.E. with a Dec. S. aisle and a Perp. tower. Besides a Jacobean pulpit and a

Royal Arms of George III there are some old brasses, one of which shows Richard and Joane Yate (1500) in their shrouds, together with their eight sons and five daughters, those who had died before their parents being shown also in their shrouds. An interesting modern brass in the old style commemorates Mr and Mrs J. R. Illingworth (1936). **Buckland,** 4 m. on from Kingston Bagpuize, also lies to the N. of the road, has a fine cruciform church, and is a delightful village. The windows of the church have curious straight mullions with an entire absence of tracery in their heads. There are good Norm. N. and S. doors; the arches supporting the tower are E.E. and the chancel, with 15th-cent. roof, has good E.E. sedilia and piscina. The N. transept contains an incised slab (c. 1300) and several tombs to the Yate family (16th-17th cent.) while the S. transept has been enriched with costly Victorian mosaics. There are a Jacobean pulpit and pews, and the E. window is by Burne-Jones. Buckland House, a fine 18th-cent. mansion, was designed by Wood the younger, a famous Bath architect.]

Just before reaching Faringdon (18 m. from Oxford) note on l. Faringdon Clump with a modern tower, a prominent landmark all over this part of the Vale of the White Horse. **Faringdon** (*Bell; Crown*) is an old stone-built market town with a long history. In Sax. times a royal residence, it was given by King John to the monks of Beaulieu, Hants, and during the Civil War it was held by the Royalists, and saw some fighting. To-day it is a pleasant little town with large inns and a 17th-cent. Town Hall on stone columns. The church is a fine cruciform building with low central tower, the spire of which was destroyed during the Civil War. It has a Trans. nave, the remainder being E.E. There are two chapels containing monuments of the Pye and Unton families. The latter is in the N. transept, and particularly remarkable is the kneeling effigy of Dorothy, wife of Sir Henry Unton (1596). He was knighted for gallantry at the battle of Zutphen and was later ambassador to France. The chapel also has some other good 16th-cent. monuments. The Pye chapel, N. of chancel, contains various monuments to the family. Its most famous member was Poet Laureate to George III. An ode of his with various allusions to 'feathered songsters' led to the composition of the familiar nursery rhyme 'Sing a Song of Sixpence', with its 'pie' of four and twenty blackbirds.

Leave Faringdon by the Swindon road (A 420).

(Take 2nd turn r. for **Gt. Coxwell.** In village, turn r. for the tithe-barn and l. for the church. The former is one of the largest in England, and is a cruciform and buttressed structure of 14th-cent. date. It was built by the monks of Abingdon, who had a grange there. The church, chiefly E.E., has a Perp. tower upon the W. side of which is a remarkable grotesque showing a sow and some little pigs. Note also an old Perp. door of oak and a Jacobean pulpit. **Little Coxwell** is reached by turning off main road to l. just after passing the turn to Gt. Coxwell. This is a pretty village, having a small church with a Norm. doorway and an E.E. bellcote, a feature rarely surviving from this period.)

Shrivenham (5 m. from Faringdon) is a large stone-built village, which has increased in importance since the recent establishment there of the Military College of Science. The church is an extremely interesting example of very late Gothic of the 17th cent. with round columns tapering towards the top and large square-headed windows. There is a very fine Jacobean pulpit and there are contemporary pews. Note in N.E. corner of chancel monument to John Wildman (1693) the Anabaptist, who was much persecuted for his religion. The tower is Perp. and older than the church.

Turn l. in Shrivenham village for Ashbury (road B 4000) and just before reaching it, turn r. at foot of hill. **Ashbury** (*Rose and Crown, P.R.H.A.*) is a picturesque place, climbing up the lower slopes of the Downs, which are here penetrated by ravines used for watercress beds. The 15th-cent. manor-house is at the lower end of the village, the church at the top. The latter is mainly Dec. and Perp. with good Norm. S. doorway. There are three interesting brasses, two priests shown in mass vestments (15th cent.) and a civilian layman (c. 1360) in the chancel. [From Ashbury a beautiful drive may be taken over the Downs to **Lambourn** (see R. 12, 6 m.). Follow B 4000 which soon climbs over the main ridge of the downs, crossing the Icknield Way, a grass track, at the top. This way may be followed on foot for ½ m. to l. for *Wayland Smith's Cave*, a prehistoric cromlech or burial chamber, the huge cap-stone of which remains *in situ*. Legend derives the name from a mythical smith, who would shoe horses if left here by travellers during their absence. The walk may be prolonged for 1½ m. to White Horse Hill (see below). 2½ m. S. from Ashbury is **Ashdown Park,** on r. The house was built by Webb, son-in-law to Inigo Jones, in the 17th cent. for William, first Earl of Craven. This is the traditional site of the Battle of Ashdown (871) in which Alfred routed the Danes.]

From Ashbury, take the Wantage road (B 4507) which is known as the Port Way and runs along the foothills of the Downs, with grand views over the Vale on the l. and numerous picturesque villages, also on the l., all with interesting churches.

[**Compton Beauchamp** (1½ m.) has a moated manor-house with 18th-cent. stone front and 16th-cent. back of brick. Adjoining is the cruciform church, chiefly Dec. These two old buildings are beautifully situated in a wooded combe. **Woolstone** (1 m. beyond) has a church with two Norm. doorways and one of the three leaden fonts in Berks (see also Childrey). There is a good 17th-cent. inn, *The White Horse, P.R.H.A.*]

4 m. along the Port Way is the **White Horse Hill** (856 ft.), the highest point in Berks and a magnificent escarpment of downland. The White Horse itself, 374 ft. long, is the oldest of the many on the chalk downs and is of prehistoric origin, the very grotesque and hardly recognisable horse with detached legs being found upon early British coins. On the r. of the combe below the hill is the Manger, a series of hollows in the turf, while on the l. is a round hillock known as Dragon Hill, where legend states that St George buried the dragon after killing it upon this spot. At the top of the hill is Uffington Castle, an Iron Age camp, and from it the view stretches far across the level Vale of the White Horse, Faringdon Clump being prominent to the N. To the far E. are the Wittenham Clumps with the long line of the Chilterns beyond them, while to the W. is Swindon and large expanses of Wilts and Glos. On the S. horizon is Highclere Beacon in Hants. The Icknield Way runs along the top of the ridge, and Wayland Smith's Cave may be reached in 1½ m. along it westwards.

Uffington lies 2 m. N. of the cross-roads below the hill (see R. 5a). Continuing along the Port Way towards Wantage, **Kingston Lisle** is 1½ m. further. On the r. of the cross-roads is the Blowing Stone described in *Tom Brown's Schooldays*. It is a 'sarsen' boulder of odd shape, with various holes in it. By blowing into one of them, a curious moan is caused, which may be heard a long way off, and which, so legend says, was used in primitive times as a warning of an enemy's approach, a sort of ancient version of an A.R.P. siren.

[The village of Kingston Lisle (*The Plough, P.R.H.A.*), is to the l. of the cross-roads. The park contains some beautiful trees and the church adjoins the manor-house, and has a Dec. chancel with some interesting 14th-cent. wall-paintings. These include a very beautiful Head of Christ on window-splay, N. of altar, and, adjoining, some scenes from the execution of St John the Baptist, including Salome dancing. Other paintings are of St Peter (l.) and St Paul (r.) on splays of E. window. Note also Jacobean pulpit and screen and a good Royal Arms of George III. 1 m. further along the Port Way is the turn (l.) to **Sparsholt,** another pretty village with an interesting church, rebuilt in the Dec. style during the 14th cent., but retaining N. and S. Norm. doorways. The chancel contains much beautiful Dec. work, including sedilia and piscina and an Easter Sepulchre on N. side. There is also an effigy of a knight, and some brasses, that of William de Herleston (1353), a former Rector, being the earliest. 1½ m. further along the Port Way is another equally attractive village, **Childrey,** for centuries the home of the powerful family of Fettiplace, which died out in 1805 (see Swinbrook, R. 14). The manor-house is partly Perp. and later, and contains an oak staircase and a room where Charles I once slept during the Civil War. The cruciform church is Perp., and possesses one of the only three leaden fonts in Berks, in this case ornamented with the figures of twelve bishops (see also Long Wittenham, R. 7). There is also a cross-legged effigy under a Dec. canopy, and eleven brasses, one of which, in the N.E. corner of the S. transept, shows husband and wife (c. 1250) rising from their tombs. Other features of interest in the church are an Easter sepulchre, similar to that at Sparsholt, some very good 15th-cent. glass in N. transept and an exceptionally good Royal Arms of George III.]

5 m. along the Port Way from Kingston Lisle is **Wantage** (*Bear Hotel*, No. 2) an old market-town, the birthplace of King Alfred, Berkshire's most famous native, in 849, commemorated by his statue by Gleichen in the market square. The church is a spacious cruciform building, the exterior features chiefly Perp. and those of the interior E.E. There is a fine E.E. font with dog-tooth ornamentation, and an alabaster tomb with effigies to Sir William Fitzwarren and Amicia his wife (1361). From here it is 15 m. back to Oxford, at first a level route across the White Horse Vale. At Wantage Road station (2½ m.) is preserved the remarkable old engine 'Shannon', built in 1857. At the time of its withdrawal from service in its 90th year it was probably the oldest working locomotive in the world. It was used for many years on the tramway formerly connecting the town of Wantage with the station. It was built for the private railway (Sandy and Potton, in Bedfordshire) of the Peel family, and was called after the ship in which Capt. Wm. Peel, R.N., was then serving. He was the son of the famous Sir Robert Peel.

[At E. Hanney (1½ m. beyond Wantage Road station) a turn may be taken l. for **W. Hanney,** where the church has a very good late Norm. N. doorway, a Perp. screen, Jacobean pulpit and several brasses. 2 m. S.W. of W. Hanney is **Denchworth,** with 15th-cent. manor-house, former home of the Hyde family, whose brasses are in the church. These range in date from the 16th cent. to 1932 and 1934, the two last being interesting modern brasses in the old style. Cranmer's Bible (1541) is preserved in a case. 2 m. N.W. of West Hanney is **Lyford,** where the Jesuit martyr Edward Campion was arrested in 1581, prior to his execution at Tyburn. The church is E.E. and has a Jacobean pulpit. 1 m. further is **Charney Basset** (*Y.H., Rectory Farm*) with an old cross in the centre of the green. The church and manor-house stand together. The former has extremely interesting Norm. carving in the tympanum of its Norm. S. doorway, showing heads with ornamented projecting tongues, while inside the church is another tympanum, now above a squint in the chancel and not in its original position over a door, showing a man holding two queer beasts by their necks. The manor-house was a grange of Abingdon Abbey and has 13th- and 15th-cent. portions. All this group of villages has a great charm, being very remote from traffic.]

The return to Oxford (12 m.) from E. Hanney is by way of **Frilford,** where a Romano-British cemetery was excavated in the field opposite the *Noah's Ark Inn.* At **Frilford Heath** (*Dog House*, No. 2), 1 m. N., are the famous golf links. The road joins the outward route near Bessels Leigh.

Route 5a. Oxford to the White Horse (direct route), 22 m.

This is a shorter form of R. 5, by which the White Horse may be reached more directly from Oxford. Proceed as in R. 5 to 2½ m. beyond Kingston Bagpuize, where turn l. (B 4508) **Pusey** is reached in 1 m. The Georgian Pusey House is passed on l. Dr Pusey, the leader of the 'Puseyite' or High Church movement in early Victorian times, was born here. The little church, also Georgian, is reached by a turn, l., beyond the house. Here are preserved Dr Pusey's portrait and surplice (framed). Note also an incised slab to Henry Doggett and wife (1399) and handsome monument to Jane Pusey (1742) by Peter Scheemakers.

[2 m. beyond Pusey turn r. at 2nd cross-roads for **Hatford.** This has a new church, but the old church, of which only the chancel remains intact, has a fine Norm. doorway to its roofless nave.]

2½ m. on from Pusey is **Stanford-in-the-Vale,** a large village with a stately cruciform church. The tower has three E.E. stages and a Perp. top stage. The rest of the church is chiefly Dec. and there is a very beautiful piscina of this period, as well as an Elizabethan pulpit and a unique wooden font of the same date.

In 1½ m. take turn r. for **Balking,** 2 m. on, where there is a small E.E. church containing considerable remains of old wall-painting, a good timber roof dated 1708 and a Jacobean pulpit. 1 m. on is **Uffington.** Turn r. on entering village and the very fine cruciform church with its octagonal central tower is ½ m. ahead. The church is wholly E.E. and all the windows are of the acutely pointed shape characteristic of this style and known as lancets. Uffington is the heart of the White Horse Vale and of the 'Tom Brown' country, Thomas Hughes, the author of the immortal *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, having been born here in 1822. 2 m. S. is the White Horse itself (see R. 5) which, by this shorter route, is reached in 22 m. from Oxford.

Route 6. Oxford to Abingdon, 6 m.

Abingdon, being so near Oxford, is easily visited. (a) *By Steamer.* In the summer months the journey can be made by steamer down the Thames, starting from Folly Bridge, so-called from an 18th-cent. structure which stood upon the predecessor of the present bridge. The college barges are passed on the l. immediately on leaving. Some of these are of great beauty and formerly belonged to the City Livery Companies. They are now used by the various college rowing clubs. Between here and Iffley the famous Torpid (spring) bumping races are rowed, and later those in Eights Week during the summer, when the river presents a gay and animated scene. Just over 1 m. downstream is **Iffley** (see Walks from Oxford). A good view of the church is obtained when leaving the lock, below which stood the famous Iffley Mill, beloved of artists, but unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1908. 1½ m. further down is Sandford Lock, with its inn and rather too prominent paper mill adjoining. Beyond this point the lovely woods of **Nuncham Courtenay** come into view and overhang the l. bank for more than a mile. The house, formerly the seat of the Harcourt family, is now in R.A.F. occupation. Queen Victoria spent part of her honeymoon here, and King Edward VII was a frequent visitor. Near the house, on the top of a hill, can be seen the beautiful **Carfax Conduit,** given by Otho Nicholson to the city of Oxford in 1610 and formerly standing at Carfax, but removed here in 1787. Abingdon is reached in another 2 m.

(b) *By Road.* Leave Oxford by Folly Bridge. As one ascends Hinksey Hill there is a fine view back over the city. Turn l. at the top, from which point the road traverses Bagley Wood, the private property of St John's College. Beyond it is a cross-roads. [¾ m. on r. is **Sunningwell,** whose church has a remarkable octagonal porch added by the Elizabethan Dr Jewell, later Bishop of Salisbury, who had to flee during the reign of Mary. A later rector was Dr Fell, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, who died of shock upon hearing of the execution of Charles I. The church also contains some fine old 'poppy heads' (ornamented bench-ends) and an Elizabethan pulpit.] Abingdon is 2½ m. further on.

To reach Abingdon by another route, 1 m. longer, leave Oxford by above route, but turn l. after crossing railway bridge, through the suburban village of Kennington. The little Norm. church is early 19th cent. Beyond this, the road runs for a mile through a fine avenue of trees, from which there are wide views over the Thames valley, Sandford Lock and Mill, with the woods of Nuneham beyond. Much building has, however, robbed the traveller of some of this view. 1 m. beyond the end of the avenue is **Radley College,** the well-known public school, which was founded in 1847. The entrance is on the r., but most of the buildings are invisible from the road. The college was first started in the fine brick Queen Anne mansion of the Bowyer family. Adjoining it is the modern chapel, containing an extremely valuable carved reredos of 15th-cent. Flemish woodwork. *Radley Church* is just beyond the college gates on the l. It is a Perp. building of much interest with a timber S. arcade. The living of Radley was formerly a 'Royal Peculiar', hence the presence of numerous royal coats of arms of various kings in stained glass. Among the glass is a portrait of Henry VII, in the W. window. Note Norm. font, buried for safety on a farm during the Civil War and restored to the church only in 1840. The canopy over the pulpit was formerly in the old House of Commons and was given to the church by the famous Speaker Lenthall in 1653. He married the daughter of Sir William Stonehouse, whose fine coloured tomb is in the chancel. Abingdon is 2½ m. further on.

Abingdon (*Queen's*, Market Place, and *Crown and Thistle*, Bridge Street, both No. 2) is an old riverside town of great charm and with its roots deep in history. Its position on the

Thames lent it importance and for long it was a centre of the clothing trade. Its rise to fame, however, throughout medieval times, was brought about by the foundation here of a Benedictine Abbey in 675 by Cissa, a prince of Wessex. The Abbey suffered many vicissitudes during its long history of 874 years, being destroyed by the Danes during Alfred's reign, but it was again rebuilt, the new abbey church being consecrated by the great Saxon churchman, St Dunstan. The next Abbot was St Aethelwold, who established the Benedictine rule here, which was to end only with the general dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. During the intervening period the Abbey became rich and powerful and was often visited by royalty, Henry III and Edward I being frequent visitors. After the dissolution, as so frequently happened, the splendid buildings became a quarry for all who were in need of stone, with the result that very little now remains, and nothing at all of the great Abbey Church, which stood in what is now the public park at the back of the Municipal Offices. Some sham 'ruins' of 19th-cent. date, but built out of genuine old materials, may here be seen. A few of the buildings of great interest remain, however, as follows:

The Abbey (for admission, 6*d*., apply Custodian, 18, Thames St.). The fine vaulted Perp. gateway adjoins the church of St Nicholas in the Market Place. Pass under this in order to reach the Checker (an abbreviation of Exchequer) and the building known as the Long Gallery. The Checker is a good E.E. building with a vaulted undercroft. The upper room has a fine, though mutilated, fireplace, above which rises a remarkable gabled chimney having triplets of E.E. lancets at the top for the emission of the smoke. Adjoining the Checker to the N. is the Perp. Long Gallery with its fine timber roof, part of which is painted, and open timber gallery on the N. side. It is thought that the Checker was used as offices and that the Long Gallery was later built for the accommodation of additional clerks. These most interesting buildings are in the custody of the Friends of Abingdon, who also hold what remains of the 13th-cent. granary of the Abbey, adjoining the Checker to the W. in Thames Street. This is now derelict cottage property, which it is hoped to restore in due course.

Return to the Market Place, in which are various important buildings. On the E. side is *St Nicholas Church*, with Trans. W. doorway and Perp. W. tower with notable gabled stair-turret. Inside note curious stone lantern-niche (l. on entering), Jacobean pulpit and tomb with effigies of John and Jane Blacknall (1625). Opposite this church, to the S., is the *Guildhall* (for permission to view, apply to No. 2, just inside the Abbey gateway), with handsome staircase with arms of Charles II and Council Chamber, of 18th-cent. date. Here are two Gainsborough portraits of George III and his queen, and two by Lely of Charles II and James II. Here are also a map of the town dating from the reign of Henry VI and many old pictures of it in bygone days. To the S. of the Guildhall is the *Old Grammar School* with its Elizabethan schoolroom, re-founded by John Roysse in 1563 and now moved to modern buildings in another part of the town. In the centre of the Market Place stood the old cross, a very beautiful medieval structure destroyed by Waller's Roundheads in the Civil War. Here now stands the very fine *County Hall*, one of the most handsome examples of its kind in the county. It was built between 1677 and 1683, the architect being Christopher Kempster, Master-builder to Wren during the rebuilding of St Paul's. It contains a museum (open 2–4 p.m., Mon. and Fri. excepted). Among the exhibits are 6th- and 7th-cent. Sax. grave-groups, fossils including mammoth remains and a very fine example of a large Victorian dolls' house.

St Helen's Church, reached by East St Helen's Street, running S.W. from the Market Place, is a beautiful building of unique shape, the nave being of greater breadth from N. to S. than of length from E. to W., and having five aisles, all in the Perp. style. This odd plan is due to the difficulties experienced in enlarging the church in any other way, owing to its constricted site. The painted ceiling of the Lady Chapel on N. side of chancel is very fine. It dates from 1391 and consists of a series of kings and prophets of the Old Testament, culminating in the Crucifixion. It can be flood-lit by lighting switch to l. of pulpit steps. Note also the Jacobean pulpit, the contemporary font-cover and old chained Bible. In the N. aisle a large striking monument by John Hickey to the Hawkins family (1780) should also be mentioned. The tower is E.E. and is crowned by a graceful Perp. spire, a rarity in Berks.

Adjoining the church is *Christ's Hospital*, an almshouse dating from 1553. This evolved from the earlier Guild of the Holy Cross, which was founded in order to maintain funds for the building of Abingdon Bridge in 1418. A quaint contemporary picture of this will be found in the council-chamber of the Hospital. This is a noble room with an oriel window and oak panelling, above which is a beautiful lantern added in 1707. The oldest part of the building is the 'Long Alley' (1446) with an open wooden gallery, off which open the living-rooms of the inmates. Note texts with curious illustrations painted over the porches. Later in date are the very charming 'Brick Alley' (1718) and 'Twitty's' buildings. *The Bridge*, on the road to Wallingford, is in two sections separated by an island, where the steamers land their passengers. The W. portion has seven pointed arches on S. side dating from 1418, but the E. portion was partly rebuilt in 1927–9, though this still retains two original pointed arches.

Old Houses. There are numerous examples of 16th-, 17th- and 18th-cent. houses in the town, E. St Helen's Street possessing a remarkable number. There are fine 18th-cent.

brick houses in Bath Street (opposite Broad Street) dated 1722 and in Ock Street (The Georgian Tea Rooms), the latter with fine staircase and plaster decoration. Note also, further down Ock Street, the picturesque Tomkins Almshouses (1731).

Route 6a. Oxford to Newbury, 27 m.

To Abingdon as in above route. Leave the town by Ock Street, with its many inn signs. At the end turn l. over the little river Ock and in 2m. is **Drayton.** This is a charming old village lying just off the busy main road A 34 (Oxford–Southampton), but the portion which lies along the road consists almost entirely of dreary ribbon development of the worst type. Turn l. in centre of Drayton down the old village street, and the church is up a turn l., a short distance down. This has a Perp. tower and nave and E.E. chancel, and it possesses a magnificent treasure in the form of an alabaster reredos, in S. chapel, of 15th-cent. date. The l. hand panel represents the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the remainder (from l. to r.) being the Annunciation, Nativity, Betrayal, Scourging and Entombment of Christ. Note also in the church a Jacobean pulpit and some good carved bench ends.

[**Sutton Courtenay** lies 1½ m. E. of Drayton. This is one of the most charming of Thames-side villages and possesses some beautiful trees, interesting old houses and a fine church. This last stands on the green and has a Norm. tower and a Dec. top. Most of the interior is now also Dec., except the easternmost arch of the S. arcade, which is Trans., and which is thought to have been the original chancel arch moved here in the 14th cent. and rebuilt upon Dec. columns. Over the present chancel arch is a very fine painting of the Royal Arms of Charles II. In the S. aisle is an old wall-painting of some widows in 17th-cent. dress, to whom were bequeathed by the Andrews Charity 'every Sabbath Day each 1d., yearly a gown and 3 certain days in each year money to buy meat, and a sermon to be preached on Corpus Christi Day'. Lord Oxford and Asquith (Prime Minister 1908–16) is buried in the churchyard. He made his home here at 'The Wharf', a house near the river, which is particularly lovely at this point. Opposite the church is Norman Hall, parts of which date from c. 1200. It is still used as a private residence. To the S. of the church is the large house known as the Abbey, with Dec. windows, built by the monks of Abingdon as their country house for sick monks. This is also a private residence. The Manor House is on the l. as one approaches the green from Drayton and was the home of the Courtenays. It is of Tudor date and has six gables with barge-boards, and imposing gate pillars.]

1½ m. S. of Drayton along the main road is **Steventon,** a beautiful village with a green, which is traversed from one end of the village to the other by a tree-lined raised paved causeway. The best portion of this lies on the r. of the main road and along it are some very beautiful old cottages, with timber framing, gables and good brick chimneys. One is dated 1657 and another group, known as Priory Cottages, are now National Trust property. The church lies at the end of the causeway beyond the railway crossing. It is chiefly Dec. and contains many points of interest, such as a fine coved roof, part of an old Perp. screen, a 16th-cent. brass and a Jacobean pulpit. In the churchyard is a very large yew, many centuries old.

Steventon had an interesting history in early railway days. From the time of the opening, in 1840, of the main line of the Great Western Railway, which passes through it, until 1844, it was the nearest station to Oxford, and eight coaches a day performed the 10 m. journey in an hour and a half. For the accommodation of passengers, a large hotel was erected, as well as a commodious covered-in railway station. The latter has long been demolished, but the former hote still remains and is an imposing stone house in the Tudor style, which now houses the station-master. Adjoining it is another similar house, which in 1842 was chosen as the headquarters of the G.W.R., as being conveniently situated half-way between London and Bristol, but this arrangement lasted for only six months, after which the headquarters were transferred to Paddington. It is odd indeed to think that this quiet little village station was once one of the most important in the country. Another reminder of early railway days at Steventon is the sign of the 'North Star' inn, called after the first engine belonging to the G.W.R. in 1837, now preserved at Swindon.

[At the top of the hill beyond Steventon on the main road, fork r. for E. and **W. Hendred**, two very charming and characteristic Berkshire villages, lying just under the main ridge of the Downs. **E. Hendred** is reached in 2 m. from Steventon. On reaching main Wallingford–Wantage road (A 417) turn r. and shortly l. At the entrance to the village is 'Champ's Chapel', a small Perp. building with priest's house adjoining. This was built by the Carthusian monks of Sheen in Surrey, who were the Lords of the Manor here. The Manor House, further down the village on the l., has been the property of the Eyston family since 1450. Attached to the house is a Roman Catholic chapel of E.E. date, in which the services of that faith have been held uninterruptedly ever since its foundation, in defiance of the reformation. During the reign of William III some passing soldiers raided the chapel and dressed up an image with vestments which they found there, which they afterwards burnt at Oxford. The church has a handsome Perp. tower, in which is a clock dating from 1528 and still at work. The arcades are E.E. with good carved foliage and grotesque heads, and the Eyston chapel is a Perp. addition on the S. side of chancel. The very fine Jacobean pulpit, complete with sounding-board, has a carved head of Charles I. There is also a very old reading-desk of early 15th-cent. date. On the floor to N. of pulpit is a brass to a cloth merchant, Henry Eldysley (1439) with his trade-mark, dating from the time when cloth manufacture was carried on extensively in this district.

W. Hendred, 1 m. W. along the Wantage road, is a smaller though attractive village with a good Dec. church charmingly situated by a stream by a steep chalk bank. It contains much old Jacobean woodwork, notably the pulpit and font cover dated 1630. Wantage lies 3 m. along the road from the W. Hendred turn and, if desired, Oxford can be regained by this pleasant road in another 15 m. (see R. 5).]

Proceeding along the main road (A 34) from Steventon, the Wallingford–Wantage road is crossed at Rowstock Corner (see R. 7a) and at the top of the next rise the vast new atomic research station of Harwell, formerly an aerodrome, is passed on r. Beyond this the road ascends to the top of the main ridge of the Berks Downs, from the summit of which is a noble panorama over the White Horse Vale to the W., the hills surrounding Oxford to the N. and the long range of the Chilterns running into Bucks to the E., with the Wittenham Clumps prominent in the middle distance (see R. 7). From this point the road descends in another mile to **E. Ilsley**, famed for racehorses, whose steep and corkscrew-like main street contains many hostelries. The little church at the top with its squat Dec. tower is chiefly E.E. and contains a Jacobean pulpit and a Norm. font. Beyond E. Ilsley the road drops into a dip of downland and ascends again to **Beedon**, the fine rolling countryside being well seen. The church (E.E.) lies ½ m. to the r. of the road and has a 14th-cent. open timber roof. Near the church are a number of old thatched timber barns. After Beedon, there is nothing very remarkable in the way of scenery or buildings, until Newbury is reached in another 6 m. through the pleasant village of Donnington (see under Newbury).

Route 7. Oxford to Wallingford, via Dorchester and Ewelme, returning direct, 30 m.

Leave Oxford over Magdalen Bridge and take the r. hand road (Iffley road). The suburbs of the city are not left behind until **Littlemore** (3 m.) is reached. Here Cardinal Newman was Vicar, prior to his secession to the Church of Rome in 1845, and he built the church in the E.E. style. ½ m. on is **Sandford-on-Thames,** whose small church contains a magnificent carving of the Assumption of the Virgin, but it is difficult to see unless the church is lighted up. 2 m. on is **Nuneham Courtenay** (*Harcourt Arms*, No. 2) a model village transferred to its present site by an 18th-cent. squire from a situation too close to his house for his liking. The house and park, which are private, are best seen from the river (see R. 6). 1 m. S. of the village is a cross-roads, the site of an inn of bad reputation called the 'Golden Ball'. A guest having been murdered, the landlord, who had been discovered in the room with a knife in his hand, was hanged, but years later the servant of the murdered man confessed to the crime, stating, however, that the landlord had fully intended to murder his master. At this cross-roads, a turning r. (B 4015) can be made to **Clifton Hampden** (1½ m.). On arriving at village, turn r. and at once l. down to the river, here crossed by a graceful brick bridge with pointed arches, designed by Sir Gilbert Scott and dating from 1864. The view from here is beautiful, the little church standing up on its steep cliff above the river and the picturesque thatched cottages making up a perfect picture. 1 m. S. across the bridge is **Long Wittenham,** on the Berks bank of the river. This, as its name implies, is a village about ¾ m. long, with many ancient cottages and some old inns, notably *The Plough*. At the far end of the village is the old cross, the church being up a lane on r. near the beginning of the village. It contains one of the three leaden fonts in Berks (see also R. 5), though there are two others nearby at Dorchester and Warborough in Oxon. The chancel arch is Norm., the chancel itself E.E., also the S. arcade, which shows characteristic 'stiff stalk' foliage. The piscina in the S. chapel is unique in having a small figure of a knight in armour carved upon it. These small effigies usually denote that only the person's heart is buried here. Above is a canopy with two angels bearing his soul to heaven. Note the old timber S. porch (Perp.), and the S. chapel screen (Jacobean) which, together with other old woodwork, came from the old chapel of Exeter College, Oxford.

Return to the main route at Dorchester by taking turn r. on to main road at Clifton Hampden.]

Dorchester (*White Hart* and *George Inns*, latter with galleried courtyard; both are 15th cent.) is a large village, which was formerly an important town, a cathedral city and, originally, a Roman settlement. Here St Birinus, the 'Apostle of Wessex', baptised King Cynegils and established a bishopric in 634. This was transferred to Winchester in 707, but later Dorchester became part of Mercia and was again chosen as the cathedral city until the bishopric was transferred to Lincoln in 1085. Later, in 1140, a monastery was founded here and the monks began the present church which, at the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII, became the parish church. It is a splendid building of great length and, except for the Norm. chancel arch and the 17th-cent. tower, it is practically all of the Dec. period and exceedingly rich in its wealth of sculpture. To describe it in detail would be beyond the compass of this book. The chief features to be noted are as follows: (1) the Perp. timber S. porch, (2) the lead font (Norm.) sculptured with eleven figures of apostles, (3) near the font, a bracket attached to a pillar with interesting carving showing sleeping monks with the devil blowing a horn, (4) the blocking wall between the S. nave aisle and S. choir aisle; this was originally the W. wall of the S. choir aisle, but was not removed when the S.

nave aisle was built later; there are faint traces on the W. side of a wall-painting of the Crucifixion, (5) the S. choir aisle, which contains four altar tombs, with effigies, the most remarkable of which is an unknown knight in the act of drawing a sword, the face having an extreme ferocity of expression; another represents John de Stonor, Chief Justice (1354) and another an abbot; all this part of the church is beautifully vaulted, (6) the choir, with its magnificent E. end, a later addition to the church and containing the richest work in it. Here are the Jesse window (N.), the sculptured tracery of which, together with the glass, represents the Tree of Jesse, whose recumbent effigy lies on the sill; the figure of the Virgin and Child (top, centre) has been mutilated. The E. window contains much old glass in the three upper tiers, and the lower tracery is sculptured into six groups illustrating the life of Christ. The S. window also contains both old glass and sculptured groups. Below this are the splendid canopied sedilia, the backs of which are pierced by small windows containing old glass illustrating the life of St Birinus. On the chancel floor is a brass to Richard Beauforest, Abbot (1512). A member of this family saved the church at the Dissolution by buying it for the parish; otherwise it would probably have been mutilated or destroyed. We owe him a very great debt of gratitude.

A pleasant walk may be taken from Dorchester across the meadows to Day's Lock (¾ m.) on the Thames. The path leads across the *Dyke Hills*, a prehistoric promontory fort between the rivers Thame and Thames. At Day's Lock the river makes a sweep round the wooded base of the *Sinodun Hills*, upon which are the *Wittenham Clumps*. These outliers of the chalk downs are a conspicuous landmark in the Thames valley for miles around. The further hill is crowned by an Iron Age camp. To reach it, ascend the nearer hill from **Little Wittenham**, on the Berks bank of the river just beyond the lock. The church here is said to have been built by a penitent gambler, as there is a small window shaped like the ace of spades on the S. side of tower. The monuments it contains are very interesting. Under the tower are those of Sir William Dunch (1611), his wife and their children; two of these who predeceased their parents are shown as corpses. On the adjoining wall is also a brass to William Dunch (1597) who was 'Auditor of the Myntes' to Henry VIII and Edward VI, and 'Esquire Sworne Extraordinarie for the bodye of our sovereigne Ladie Elizabeth.' Note especially one very grotesque one of an infant (Anne Dunch, 1683), who is depicted apparently as an elderly woman. In the chancel are some brasses to the Kidwelly family.

Leaving Dorchester, the R. Thame is crossed, and 1 m. farther on is Shillingford. [Wallingford (see below) can be reached in 2 m. by turning r. and crossing into Berks at Shillingford Bridge, where there is a very popular riverside inn. Turn l. at Shillingford for **Warborough** (½ m.). Here is a church with another Norm. leaden font similar to the one at Long Wittenham, Berks. The tower has the date '1666' worked into the masonry by the insertion of flints.]

1 m. beyond Shillingford is **Benson**, once a place of importance in coaching days, and still boasting good inns (*White Hart*, *Castle* and *Crown*). Turn l. into B 4009 before reaching village and then through it to **Ewelme** (1 m.). Turn l. on entering village and at once r. by the *Shepherd's Hut Inn*. Ewelme is an exceedingly pretty village where watercress is cultivated, in a well-wooded valley running up into the Chilterns. At the far end of the village street are the very picturesque and interesting buildings consisting of the church, hospital (almshouse) and free school, all of which were founded in 1434–46 by William de la Pole, who was a minister of Henry VI. The hospital and free-school buildings are of brick; the former has a very charming little quadrangle, around which are the dwellings of the old people. From the quadrangle a covered staircase leads up to

the church, the tower of which rises picturesquely above the other old buildings. The church, entirely Perp., contains the splendid tomb of Alice, Duchess of Suffolk, wife of the founder (1475), with alabaster effigy, wearing the Order of the Garter round the l. arm. She was a Chaucer, of the same family as Geoffrey, the poet, and her parents are commemorated by a brass (1436). There are also some other old brasses, some old Flemish glass in the E. window and a very fine font canopy surmounted by a figure of St Michael. The Perp. screen was raised to its former height in 1925.

Leave Ewelme by turning round at church and then taking first turn l. for Wallingford. This road crosses the open foothills of the Chilterns with fine views on r. towards Shotover Hill (near Oxford) and the Wittenham Clumps and ahead along the Vale of the White Horse and the Berkshire Downs. 2½ m. on is **Crowmarsh Gifford** with a Norm. church of a plain, early type. Wallingford Bridge is now crossed into Berks. This is partly medieval and worth examining from the field on r., into which steps descend. The E. portion consists of ten arches, some of which are pointed and ribbed underneath. These were built in 1530 with stone from the destroyed Holy Trinity Priory; various carved stones may be discerned. The six remaining arches are of 18th-cent. date. Follow High Street, which has, on S. side, a 16th-cent. house with projecting upper storey, to the cross-roads at centre of town, where turn l. into the Market Place.

Wallingford (Hotels: *Lamb* and *George*, both High Street, and *Feathers*, Market Place, all No. 2), is a very old town and is surrounded by a turf rampart and ditch on the N., W., and S. sides, the river having formed the defence on the E. These ramparts have never been dated accurately, but in view of the many Sax. relics discovered in the town, they may date from that period. The Castle, whose remains are now enclosed in the private garden of a mansion known as the Castle, lies N. of the High Street behind the houses. (Permission can be obtained at the house to view the remains; drive entrance in the Oxford road). They now consist mainly of the great artificial mound, upon which stood the keep, and of the ruins of St Nicholas Church within the castle, as well as the moat. The castle dates from Norm. times, and here was signed the treaty which ended the civil war between Stephen and Matilda in 1153. Henry II held his first parliament here and later the Black Prince came to reside here after his marriage in 1361. Thereafter it ceased to be a royal residence. It was held for the King in the Civil War and destroyed by order of the Parliament in 1652. In the Market Place is the picturesque Town Hall (1670) standing upon pillars, the Post Office (marked 'E.R. VIII, 1936') and St Mary's Church. The town once boasted fifteen churches, of which only this and two others survive. St Peter's, near the bridge, has a curious spire dating from 1777, the work of Sir Robert Taylor. Most interesting of the three is St Leonard's, in the S.E. corner of the town near the river. This is probably pre-Conquest, since its walls show herring-bone masonry. There are two fine Norm. arches covered with diaper-work in the interior. The tower, apse and S. aisle are Victorian.

The return to Oxford direct (13 m.) is by Shillingford Bridge and Dorchester.

Route 7a. Oxford to Blewbury, via Wallingford and Cholsey, returning via Abingdon, 37 m.

This route is a variant of R. 7 omitting Ewelme, but including some pleasant downland scenery near Blewbury. Proceed as in R. 7 to Shillingford cross-roads, where turn r. for Wallingford (described under R. 7). Leave Wallingford by the Reading road, on the E. side of which are the charming brick almshouses founded in 1681 by William and Mary Angier. In ¾ m. S. of town, fork r. for **Cholsey** (2 m.). Turn r. in village for church, which has a good Norm. S. doorway and Sax. arches supporting the central tower. The nave is Dec. and the chancel E.E., and in the churchyard is a large yew. After this the road crosses bare downland for 2 m. with fine views in all directions. After crossing the railway **S. Moreton** is reached; here is an E.E. church with a Sax. doorway. [Turn r. up village street and r. again at top and across railway for **N. Moreton** (1 m.) which has a church with beautiful Dec. Stapleton Chapel and an E. window with contemporary glass. Note the external cornice of chapel, carved with grotesque animals. Some cottages and an old barn near the church have Tudor herring-bone brickwork.]

At S. Moreton, keep l. for **Aston Tirrold** and **Aston Upthorpe** (1 m.) the former l. and the latter r. of the road. These two form one pretty, well-timbered village. Both have old churches, the former possessing a Sax. door built into later work. In a short distance the Icknield Way, running along the foot of the Downs, is reached, where turn r. into A 417 for Blewbury (1½ m.). Note on the r. the detached chalk **Blewburton Hill**, upon which is a fine Iron Age camp. [From Blewbury a detour of 4 m. can be made by turning r. just before reaching the village for **E. Hagbourne**, returning to the main road A 417 at W. Hagbourne, beyond Blewbury. E. Hagbourne is one of the most charming villages in Berks, the church, cross and beautiful old cottages making a picture typical of the English village at its best. The church is an interesting one and has a handsome tower with prominent stair turret and sanctus bellcote. The interior has good roofs to nave and chancel, E.E. arcades and some 14th-cent. glass, including a scene depicting the Purification of the Virgin Mary, the Child holding a basket containing three pigeons.] **Blewbury** is one of the best known and most picturesque of all the downland villages of Berks. It contains many charming old houses and cottages, some with thatched roofs, and is intersected by quaint lanes bordered by 'cob' (puddled chalk) walls with thatched tops. An inn has the queer sign

'The Man with a Load of Mischief'. The church is of great interest and is chiefly Trans., with the crossing arches of a former central tower, replaced in the Perp. period by the present W. tower. The N. nave arcade and S. chapel of chancel are Dec. and the S. nave arcade is Trans. The S. porch (Perp.) has a fine old door with original ironwork. The church possesses several other features of interest, including five brasses. To the S. of the church is the picturesque old Charity School dating from 1709. 3 m. on is **Harwell**, just off the road to the r., a pleasant village, well-timbered and noted for its cherry-orchards, with a church, chiefly Dec. but with an E.E. tower. 1 m. on is **Rowstock Corner**, where turn r. along A 34 for **Oxford** (12 m.).

Route 8. Oxford to Thame and the foothills of the Chilterns, returning via Watlington and Chalgrove, 41 m.

Leave Oxford over Magdalen Bridge and take the Cowley road (the middle road) through 3 m. of exceedingly dreary suburb, leading finally past the huge Cowley motor works before the country is gained. Immediately beyond Cowley station, turn l. for **Garsington**, which is reached in 1 m. This is a delightful, well-wooded village on a spur of Shotover Hill with charming stone-built cottages and deep lanes, and no contrast could be greater than that between it and the motor-works, only 1 m. back along the road. The church stands on the edge of the hill commanding a magnificent view of the Chilterns and, further W., the Berks Downs, with the Wittenham Clumps on their isolated hills in the middle distance. The building itself is Trans., with a low tower of that period. Further down the hill from the church is a good Elizabethan manor-house. At the centre of the village is an old cross, and from here take the road to Wheatley along the top of the ridge in order to get a still more wide-spreading view. On a clear day the Chilterns may be seen stretching away into Bucks and Herts beyond, with the Whiteleafe Cross at Princes Risborough, Bucks, distinctly visible. 1½ m. along the ridge, turn r. for **Cuddesdon,** a village similarly situated to Garsington, at the other end of the horse-shoe-shaped ridge along which we have been travelling. On entering the village, on the r. is the Theological College, designed by Street, founded in 1853 by Bishop Wilberforce. Opposite is the former Palace of the Bishops of Oxford, built in 1670 to replace one burnt down in the Civil War by the Roundheads. The church is cruciform and very fine, having been built by the monks of Abingdon. Note particularly the W. and S. doorways and the crossing arches under the tower, which are all very good Trans. work. The chancel dates from c. 1500 and was intended for aisles, but they were apparently never built and the arches which were to open into them remain blocked. The windows contain the arms of the Bishops of Oxford.

Leave church on l. and take the road for Gt. Milton, crossing the river Thame at Cuddesdon Mill. At the top of the hill beyond, turn r. and shortly l. for **Gt. Milton.** This is a large stone-built village, from which the poet Milton's family took their name. The entrance to the church is opposite to the *Red Lion Inn;* the church itself is very magnificent and is chiefly E.E., but with beautiful windows with flowing tracery added later in the Dec. style. The S. porch with parvise above, and also the tower, are Perp. Among interesting features are the Jacobean pulpit and some musical instruments in a case in the S. aisle. These are an ophicleide and a keyed-bugle, which were used in the church until 1860. Under the tower are preserved some ancient-looking pikes issued to the Home Guard during the invasion scare of 1940. Here also is the handsome monument to Sir Michael Dormer (1618) with effigies of himself, his wife and their son. The family lived at the Manor House immediately to the S. of the church, but of this only the Renaissance gateway now remains. From the *Red Lion,* take road on r. and pass church and manor gateway on l. Very soon the main road B 4013 is reached, where turn l. for Thame.

[Shortly afterwards a road leads r. to **Gt. Haseley.** Here is another very fine church, with S. and W. doorways with E.E. dog-tooth moulding, E.E. nave and beautiful Dec. chancel. In the N. aisle is the altar-tomb to Sir William Barendyne, Sheriff of Oxford in the reign of Henry VIII, and in the S. aisle the effigy of a knight, said to be William de Mandeville, Earl of Essex (c. 1220). There is also a Jacobean pulpit and some brasses. The church has had two well-known rectors, John Leland, Antiquary-General to Henry VIII, and Christopher Wren, senior, father of the architect.]

To the r. of route B 4013, there are fine views of the Chilterns; the main London–Oxford road is crossed at the *Three Pigeons Inn.*

[1 m. beyond this, on the l. is a private drive leading to **Rycote Park,** but motorists and cyclists are allowed to use it. This drive leads to Rycote House, which incorporates what remains of the once magnificent house of Lord Williams, built in 1539. Here Princess Elizabeth, later Queen, was entertained on her way to detention at Woodstock during her sister Mary's reign and here she came later as Queen on two more occasions. Charles I also stayed here on various visits. Adjoining the house is a Perp. chapel, which contains two magnificent Renaissance pews with wooden canopies, elaborately carved and painted. There is also a good W. gallery.]

4 m. beyond the *Three Pigeons* is **Thame** (Hotels: *Spread Eagle* and *Swan*) 15 m. from Oxford, a 'one-street' market town which broadens at the centre into a spacious market-place. To this town came John Hampden in 1643 after his mortal wound at Chalgrove (see later) and here, a few days later, he died. The fine cruciform church is down by the bridge over the Thame, on the N. side of the town. The

earliest parts are the nave arcades and crossing arches and the lancet windows on N. side of chancel (E.E.). Next in date is the geometrical Dec. E. window and the later Dec. windows on S. side of chancel with their reticulated or 'net' tracery. The nave clerestory and the fine central tower are Perp.; note also the Dec. porch with parvise above. In the chancel is the magnificent alabaster tomb with effigies of Lord Williams (1559) and his wife; he built the great Tudor mansion at Rycote and founded the Grammar School at Thame. In the S. transept are two altar-tombs to the Quartermayne family with brasses of the 15th and 16th cents. Two of them, Richard and Sybil Quartermayne, founded Rycote chapel. Another altar-tomb, in the N. transept, commemorates Geoffrey Dormer, his two wives and twenty-five children. Between the church and the High Street is the old Grammar School, founded in 1575, but now used as a girls' school, the boys having been transferred to new premises. In the old school, John Hampden was a pupil.

Pass straight through town and at far end keep l. at fork by the *Four Horse Shoes Inn* (B 4445) for Chinnor. (The r. fork leads to Thame Park, a fine Tudor house built by Bishop King of Oxford on the site of a monastery.) Enter Chinnor by cross-roads and pass straight over them into route B 4009 for Watlington. **Chinnor** village lies right under the bold wooded escarpment of the Chilterns and is one of a long string of villages lying along the Icknield Way. Chinnor Church is Dec. and the chancel contains some beautiful old glass. The great interest of the church, however, lies in the numerous brasses in the chancel, the earliest of which is to a Rector who died in 1330, his head being shown enclosed in a floriated cross. Especially noteworthy among this fine collection of brasses is that of Reginald de Malyns (1385) and his two wives, which was executed when the art of brass engraving was at its zenith. At the W. end of the church is the cross-legged effigy of a knight. The route now lies along the Icknield Way with the hills on the l. Just outside Chinnor is a large cement works, which is a disfiguring feature. Passing through the hamlets of Oakley, Crowell and Kingston Blount, we cross the London–Oxford road at **Aston Rowant,** where there is a good inn, the *Lambert Arms.* [By following the main road up the hill towards London, the Aston Wood property of the National Trust is reached on the l. as the hill is ascended. This consists of 65 acres of beautiful beechwood.] ½ m. beyond Aston Rowant is **Lewknor,** above which juts out the wooded promontory of Beacon Hill, projecting beyond the general line of the ridge. Here there is another interesting church with Perp. tower, Trans. nave and Dec. chancel. The last is exceedingly beautiful, having corbels carved with both heads and foliage supporting the roof; note also fine canopied sedilia and piscina and a tomb-recess under a canopy, upon which are three fingers of a hand in the act of benediction. In the chancel are also two good Jacobean monuments with effigies.

[1½ m. on is **Shirburn,** which is reached by taking a small by-road on r. Here is a remarkable castle built in 1377 and still occupied as a residence by the Earl of Macclesfield. It is surrounded by a water-filled moat, over which is a drawbridge. Unfortunately it is invisible from the road and kept strictly private.]

2½ m. beyond Lewknor is **Watlington,** an old decayed market-town in the centre of which is a Jacobean brick Town Hall (1664) built upon arches. Keep straight on through the town to the further end, where turn r. for Oxford, reached in 14 m. [By turning l. at this point, a beautiful road leads over the Chilterns to Henley (10 m.); by turning l. at the Town Hall **Watlington Hill** is reached in 1 m. This is a bare bluff standing out from the main Chiltern range and consists of 100 acres of downland owned by the National Trust and commanding wide-spreading views towards Oxford (see R. 21).]

Leaving Watlington by the Oxford road, fork r. on the outskirts of town, and 1 m. further is **Cuxham.** This is a pleasant village with a stream running through it and a church with a Norm. W. doorway. [1 m. to the W. of Cuxham is **Brightwell Baldwin,** a pretty village, whose Dec. church has two interesting brasses. One is but an inscription, but it is one of the earliest we have in the English language and commemorates John de Smyth (c. 1370). The other is a very fine one to Chief Justice John Cottesmore, with large figures of himself and his wife under canopies on the floor, with a second smaller brass showing them again on the wall above.]

Beyond Cuxham, the open level country known as **Chalgrove Field** is crossed, and here, in June 1643, Prince Rupert inflicted a defeat on the forces of the Parliament, and John Hampden, who was then serving with the Parliamentary forces, received his mortal wound. On the site of the battle is an obelisk, with a plaque of Hampden. Here an aerodrome blocks the course of the original road, so that the main road now leads into **Chalgrove Village.** This is a most picturesque place with a long street containing many ancient cottages. The interesting church is down a by-lane (l.) at the S. end of the village and has a Perp. tower, Trans. nave and beautiful Dec. chancel with good sedilia and piscina. There are old wall-paintings, including the Last Judgment in the S.W. corner of the chancel and a tree of Jesse in the N.W. corner. Note also Jacobean pulpit and font.

Just before entering **Stadhampton,** 2 m. on, note on l. some old stone gate-posts and a fine double avenue of limes leading up to the site of Ascott House, a former seat of the Dormers, erected in 1662 and almost immediately destroyed by fire and never rebuilt. Stadhampton itself is a pleasing village with a large green, where turn l., and in the village r. for Oxford. ½ m. beyond is **Chiselhampton.** The bridge, of medieval date, over the Thame, was held by the forces of Prince Rupert in order to secure his retreat from Chalgrove to Oxford. On the r. of the road beyond the bridge is the handsome brick 18th-cent. Chiselhampton Lodge, and shortly afterwards on the r. is the church, a charming little building dating from 1763, which possesses its original pulpit, box-pews and W. gallery. Garsington is seen 2 m. beyond on r. and Oxford regained by the dreary industrial Cowley road. This can, however, be avoided by turning l. at Chiselhampton, just before reaching the church, and r. in 2 m. at the cross-roads, whence Oxford is entered by the much pleasanter Iffley road.

Route 8a. Oxford to the Chiltern Hills (Aston Rowant) via Wheatley, 15 m.

This is a shorter route to the Chilterns than R. 8 and follows the main road (A 40) to High Wycombe and London throughout. Leave Oxford by Magdalen Bridge and take the left-hand road (St Clement's) at the far end of which begins the ascent of Headington Hill by means of a deep cutting made for the stage-coaches. At the top is the modern suburb of **Headington,** but the old village and church lie to the l. of the cross-roads at the centre. The church has a fine enriched Norm. chancel arch and a picture showing wall-paintings, unfortunately destroyed many years ago. 2 m. beyond Headington is **Forest Hill,** which lies to the l. of the road. The church, on the top of the hill, was the scene of Milton's first marriage, to Mary Powell, then aged only 17. In two months' time, she was once more back at Forest Hill, having deserted her husband. It was at this time that he wrote his well-known 'Treatise on Divorce'. Some years later Milton once more became reunited with his wife. The church itself is E.E. with a fine S. door; the chancel arch is Norm. and of much rougher work.

††1 m. beyond Forest Hill and just before reaching

Wheatley is a turn, l., to **Holton.** The park lies between the villages of Holton and Wheatley, and in the old house, rebuilt in 1815, Ireton married Bridget Cromwell, the Protector's daughter, in 1646. Holton church has a beautiful Trans. N. doorway with both dog-tooth and zig-zag ornamentation; most of the remainder is Perp. and there are two brasses to the Brome family. These commemorate William, who rebuilt part of the church and is shown in armour (1461), and a later William, whose brass has a charming little Elizabethan figure. He died in 1599, aged 10.††

Wheatley is a large stone-built village and lies on the r. hand side of the main road. Its sole feature of interest is an old lock-up resembling the amputated top of a church spire.

††At the far end of Wheatley is a turn, l. to **Waterperry** (3 m.). This curiously remote little place has a church adjoining the 18th-cent. manor-house, which is certainly worth a visit. It is chiefly Dec. in style as regards the windows, but the S. arcade is Trans. and the chancel E.E. The church contains a large amount of old glass and there is a very fine effigy to a member of the Fitzely family. There is also an interesting palimpsest brass made originally in c. 1450, but altered to commemorate Walter Curzon and his wife, the costumes having been adapted to suit the fashions of 1530. This couple are also commemorated in one of the old stained-glass windows. Note a pathetic monument to one of the Henley family by Chantrey, showing a young wife bidding farewell to her child and husband.††

Beyond the bridge over the Thame (*Wheatley Bridge Hotel*, No. 2), fork r. under the railway, and at the *Three Pigeons*, 2 m. beyond, the road followed by R. 8 is crossed. From this point onwards the long line of the Chilterns is in view for the rest of the way. 2 m. beyond the *Three Pigeons* is Tetsworth, whose large *Swan Inn* dates from the coaching days.

††Just beyond Tetsworth is a turn, r. for **Wheatfield,** which has an interesting church. Follow road for 1 m., then turn l., keeping Wheatfield Park on the r. and the church is ½ m. along on the r. The main road may be regained by continuing on through Adwell. The church is architecturally remarkable as being a Perp. building, as the chancel arch bears witness, remodelled in 1740 in the classical style. It has good pews and pulpit and an exceptionally fine Communion table of this period.††

The *Lambert Arms* at Aston Rowant (see R. 8), at the foot of the Chiltern range, is 3 m. beyond Tetsworth.

Route 9. Oxford to the Otmoor country (circular route), 30 m.

This route circles the flat fen district to the N.E. of Oxford known as Otmoor. It is separated from the city by a range of wooded heights containing some delightful stone-built villages with wide views over the flat country.

Leave Oxford over Magdalen Bridge and take the left-hand road (St Clement's) as in R. 8a. At the round-about at the far end of Headington, turn l. into the Bayswater road, which leads through a modern housing estate into the valley of the Bayswater Brook. 1 m. beyond the bridge over the brook is a cross-roads, from which two pleasant alternatives present themselves, if desired.

††½ m. along road B 4027 to the r., taking next turn to l., s **Stanton St John,** in the centre of which is a beautiful group of old buildings, comprising the church, the old stone-built and thatched barns of the Manor House and another old house opposite to them with stone-mullioned windows. This last, as an inscription states, was the birthplace of John White (1575–1648), the founder of the state of Massachusetts, and is a place of pilgrimage for American visitors. The church has a Perp. tower, Trans. N. arcade and Dec. S. arcade, and a most beautiful Dec. chancel having an E. window with very unusual geometrical tracery. The chancel also contains much old glass, and in the nave are

some very curious old 'poppy-head' bench-ends, each carved with two human heads. There is also a Jacobean pulpit and a Georgian Royal Arms.

1 m. along road B 4027 to the l., taking another turn r. just by the cross-roads, is **Beckley**, another delightful stone-built village on a high spur with a grand view northwards over the great level of Otmoor, across which there are no roads, but only green tracks, one of which, that from Beckley to Fencot, 3 m. across the moor, is part of the Roman road from Dorchester-on-Thames to Alchester near Bicester.

Beckley church is Dec. and Perp. and must once have been rich in wall-paintings. The royal Arms of King George III have been superimposed upon the former Doom painting over the chancel arch, but the figures of St Peter (N.) and St Paul (S.) can still be recognised, while in the S. aisle is a Virgin and Child and only the scales remaining of a former 'Weighing of Souls' picture. Note also good Jacobean pulpit, complete with sounding-board and hour-glass stand.††

Resuming the journey from the cross-roads, continue straight over and follow road marked 'Brill'. The road soon descends to the Otmoor level and a straight, wooded stretch leads in 2 m. to **Studley**, where turn r. on entering village. This is a pretty place with thatched and timber-framed cottages. On the right-hand side are the well-wooded grounds of **Studley Priory**, a very stately Elizabethan house of red brick, now a guest house (No. 1). It was built in 1587 by the Croke family, who held it for many generations, upon the site of a Benedictine nunnery. Note also the old brick Almshouses on the l. of road, erected in 1639.

½ m. beyond the village, turn l.; here the county boundary of Oxfordshire and Bucks is crossed and a short journey is made through the latter county in order to get back into Oxfordshire. In 1 m. keep l. where road runs r. to Brill, an upland village visible on a hill 3 m. away. In another ¾ m. turn r. and **Boarstall Tower** is a short distance ahead on the l. This is National Trust property, but is used as a private house. The tower, which dates from the 14th cent. was the gatehouse to a vanished castle, of which the moat is the only other remnant. Just beyond the tower we turn l. into road B 4011, beyond which point we are once more in Oxfordshire. The road now descends into the plain once more and is soon among the buildings of the vast military establishment known as the Bicester Garrison. Turn l. at the next cross-roads for Arncott, a hamlet now surrounded by military buildings, and in 1 m., at Arncott itself, turn r. The road soon crosses the little river Ray and in ¾ m. reaches **Ambrosden**, where turn l. at the Garrison Theatre.

††From this point it is 2 m. on to **Bicester** (*King's Arms*, No. 1 and *Crown*, No. 2), a name famous in hunting circles, but a somewhat uninteresting town. It possesses, however, an old church with a Sax. arch with a triangular head, and students of this early period of church architecture might also visit **Caversfield,** 2 m. N. from Bicester, which has a Sax. 'saddle-back' tower.††

Ambrosden church, up a lane to the r. by telephone box, has a beautiful Dec. S. aisle, having an open cornice of quatrefoils, with a row of grotesque heads and 'ball-flower' ornamentation below. After Ambrosden, the road finally escapes from the military buildings into the very peaceful and rural flat country which lies to the N. of Otmoor. **Merton** is reached in 2 m. and here the church is well worth seeing. It is a beautiful late Dec. building with good sedilia and an arched tomb-recess in the chancel, as well as a monument with kneeling effigies to John d'Oyley and his wife (1593) and their four daughters. There is also a Jacobean pulpit and some stalls.

1½ m. beyond Merton, take turn l. to **Charlton-on-Otmoor** where turn r. on entering village. The church here has a magnificent Perp. rood-screen in wonderful preservation, dating from c. 1500. The high tower, E.E. with a Perp. upper storey, is a landmark for miles around. Less than a mile beyond Charlton is **Oddington**, a small village on the edge of Otmoor, whose church contains a gruesome brass to a former vicar, Radulphus Hamsterley, who is represented as a shrouded body in an advanced stage of decomposition devoured by worms! The fact that he had this brass engraved before his death in 1518 is proved by the fact that the date of his death has never been filled in.

At **Islip**, the next village, once stood a palace of the Saxon kings and here in 1004 was born Edward the Confessor, the founder of Westminster Abbey. All traces of the palace have now disappeared. Islip is a pleasant village of stone-built thatched cottages and in the centre is a tree surrounded by a platform known as the Cross Tree. The church has been too much restored, but contains some interesting pictures of the destroyed wall-paintings. Turn l. at the Cross Tree down the hill and across the bridge over the Ray. This was much fought over during the Civil War, since it formed an important strategic point in the defence of Oxford by the Royalists.

At the top of the hill is a grand view (l.) over Otmoor, with Charlton church tower to the l. and the hill of Brill in Bucks straight across the flat fenland, while Beckley is to the r. Between the Brill and Beckley hills is a distant view of the Chilterns and, if the weather be clear, the Whiteleaf Cross near Princes Risborough in Bucks is visible from here.

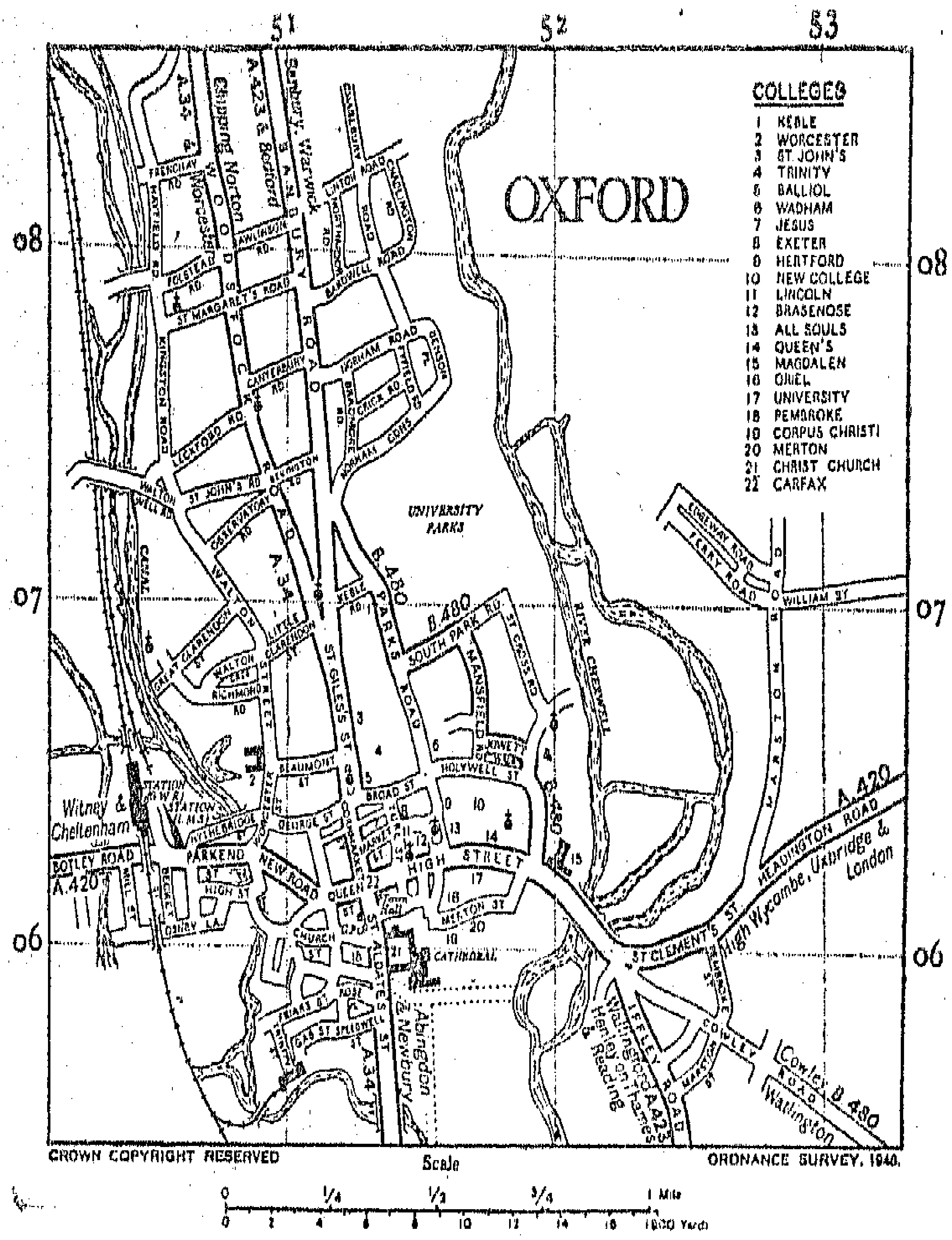
††A turn l. leads from the hilltop down to the retired hamlet of **Noke** (¼ m.) on the edge of Otmoor. An old folk rhyme links this village with Beckley as follows:

I went to Noke and nobody spoke
I went to Beckley and they told me directly.

Whether the inhabitants of Noke still maintain a reputation for taciturnity is open to question, but their village is one of the remotest in this part of England, being a complete 'dead-end' on the edge of the fenland. It possesses a charming little Perp. church with a Jacobean pulpit and hour-glass stand, as well as a brass to Johan Bradshaw (1598) and her four sons and four daughters.††

Just below the brow of the hill beyond the Noke turning, take road r. for **Wood Eaton**. This is a beautiful little village embowered in trees with an old cross upon a green in its centre. The little church is E.E. with a Perp. tower built in a curious fashion upon piers within the church. As the building is entered, an enormous wall-painting of St Christopher on the wall opposite catches the eye. From his mouth proceeds a scroll, upon which is the inscription in old French, 'Ki cest image verra le jur de male mort ne murra' (Whoever will see this image to-day will not die a violent death). He is supposed to have carried the infant Christ over a flooded stream and is thus the Patron Saint of travellers. A glance at his picture was considered sufficient to protect one from harm for the rest of the day, hence the usual position of the picture was opposite the principal door of the church, where it could be seen quickly. There are also remains of other wall-paintings in this church. Some 16th-cent. pews and the 18th-cent. pulpit and clerk's desk, as well as the Squire's pew are also notable.

1½ m. S. of Wood Eaton the Oxford northern by-pass road is crossed, and on the far side of it is **Marston**. Here the Parliamentary forces made their headquarters during the siege of Oxford in the Civil War, and here the terms for the capitulation by the Royalists were settled by negotiation, the beleaguered garrison being allowed to march out with the honours of war (see Walks from Oxford; Shotover Hill). The church has Trans. arcades but is largely Perp. and contains a Jacobean pulpit. Oxford is reached in another 3 m.



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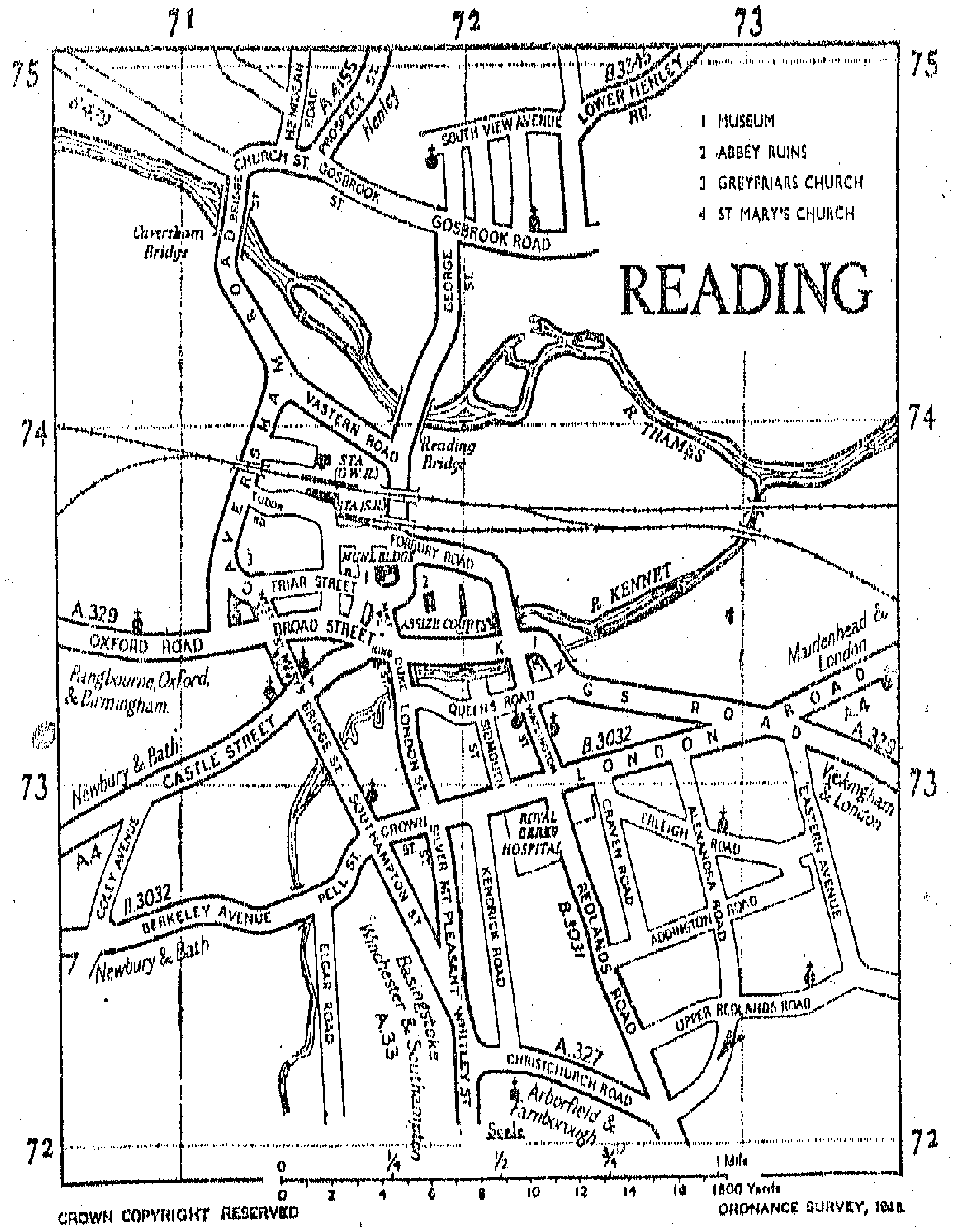

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II. NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

BANBURY
EDGEHILL
THE ROLLRIGHT STONES
CHIPPING NORTON

II. NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

BANBURY

Banbury (*Whateley Hall*, No. 1, *White Lion*, *Crown*, both No. 2) the capital of N. Oxfordshire, lies in the Upper Cherwell valley on the borders of Warwickshire (N.W.) and Northants (N.E.). It is an old market-town, which has continued prosperous owing to the fact that it is a good rail and road centre and has an extensive aluminium factory and another for the making of agricultural implements. It is also noted for its 'cakes and ale', the cakes being, of course, the celebrated 'Banbury cakes', which have a casing of pastry, in which is a mixture of currants. It is also world-famous owing to the nursery rhyme 'Ride a cock horse', the 'fine lady' referred to being a corruption of Fiennes (pronounced 'Fines'), a reference to the family of that name who still occupy Broughton Castle (see R. 12). The original Banbury Cross was utterly destroyed by the Puritans in 1602, the present cross being a Victorian erection on the old site. The town has long been notorious for its extreme Puritanical zeal, hence the old rhyme:

To Banbury came I, O profane one!
Where I saw a Puritane one
Hanging of his cat on Monday
For killing of a mouse on Sunday.

During the Civil War the town very naturally declared for the Parliament, but the Castle was garrisoned for the King and withstood two sieges, the second of which, in 1644, lasted 13 weeks and ended in the retreat of the garrison with the honours of war. The town had suffered so considerably from the sieges that they besought Parliament to demolish the castle; their request was granted and no trace of it what-ever remains now. The old parish church, which was of great beauty, was also utterly destroyed, in 1790. Although it was demolished on the plea that it was beyond hope of restoration, parts of the fabric were so strong that gunpowder had to be resorted to in order to destroy them! The building that has taken its place was designed by Robert Cockerell, a well-known architect of his day, and was completed in 1797. Although the loss of the old church is to be deplored, it cannot be denied that the W. portico and tower of the present classical building are certainly handsome. The chancel with its lavish decoration was added in 1874 by Blomfield.

Old Houses. Banbury possesses several old inns and houses, the most notable of the former being the *Reindeer Inn* in Parsons Street. It dates from 1624 and has a picturesque courtyard. The great mullioned window of its chief room, known as the Globe Room, is on the l. of the yard, but unfortunately the fine panelling and plaster ceiling which it contained were transported to America in 1914. Another old inn is the *Unicorn*, on the W. side of the Market Place; this also has an old courtyard and dates from 1648. The old cake shop in the High Street is a fine example of an early 17th-cent. gabled and timbered house.

The Neighbourhood of Banbury

Immediately to the E. of the town, Northants is entered, and that is beyond the scope of this book. The most interesting building in the immediate neighbourhood of Banbury is *Broughton Castle* (see R. 12) which is 2¾ m. to the S.W. of the town, and the magnificent churches of Bloxham and Adderbury (see R. 10), which lie respectively 3 m. S.W. and S.E. To the N. of Banbury, however, are two villages of much interest before the county boundary is reached. These are Hanwell and Cropredy, which may both easily be visited in one journey. Take the main road northwards from the Cross along the street called North Bar, passing the church on r. At the traffic island not far beyond turn l. into the Warwick road (A 41) and continue for 3 m. until a turn r. for Hanwell is reached.

Hanwell (Youth Hostel) is a charming village very typical of N. Oxfordshire and boasts both a fine church and the remains of a castle. The former is Dec. and possesses the regional characteristic of grotesque heads carved upon the capitals of the nave arcades, as well as an elaborate cornice of men and animals on the S. exterior of the chancel. Other features are an old stone reredos in the N. aisle and the tomb of Sir Anthony Cope (1614) in the chancel. The Cope family lived at the adjacent castle during the 16th and 17th cents. and here they sheltered a secret agent of Charles II during the Commonwealth. The castle is of Tudor date and still retains one of the original four brick towers which it formerly possessed. It was partially dismantled in the 18th cent. and is now used as a private residence.

Continue through village and on for another 1½ m. and then turn l. on to the Banbury–Coventry road (A 423) and very shortly r. again for Cropredy. Just after this turning is the small village of **Bourton Magna**, whose church has a detached tower with a peculiar open belfry; both were much rebuilt in 1863. At the bottom of the hill is **Cropredy** (6 m. from Banbury) which was the scene of a fierce battle during the Civil War in 1644. Charles I and his troops were occupying the E. bank of the Cherwell at this point, while Waller, in command of the Parliamentary forces, occupied the W. bank. Noticing what he thought was a weak spot in the Royalist defences, Waller seized Cropredy bridge (since rebuilt), whereupon the battle was joined, resulting in the loss of the Parliamentary artillery and its withdrawal from the bridge. Since the Royalists did not think it wise to pursue their advantage, however, this success did not help their cause to any great extent. The church is a large and handsome Dec. building, a remarkable feature being the absence of capitals from the nave arcades, the arch mouldings continuing to the ground. The N. chapel has a Dec. screen and the S. chapel has two Perp. screens. Note also remains of a 'Doom' painting over chancel arch, a Jacobean pulpit (1619), some old pieces of armour from the battlefield and an old font.

2 m. N. of Cropredy is **Claydon**, the most northerly village in Oxfordshire, with a small Norm. church. Just before reaching it is *Clattercot Priory*, now a farm, but formerly a Gilbertine priory. This order was the only English monastic order, having been founded by St Gilbert of Lincolnshire in the 12th cent. Incorporated with the farm buildings are some medieval remains, including a vaulted chamber and an old dovecote.

Route 10. Banbury to Edgehill via Horley and Hornton, returning via Alkerton and Swalcliffe, 25 m.

Leave Banbury Cross by Horse Fair and North Bar, and in ¼ m. turn l. into Warwick road (A 41) at the traffic island not far beyond the church. In 1 m. turn l. at the *Barley Mow Inn* and follow road A 422, the first village encountered being **Drayton**. The church lies in a curious little hollow, remote from the village, and is reached through the drive gates of the Rectory, on the l. just before reaching the telephone box. In style it is Dec. and it contains two good 18th-cent. altar tombs with incised effigies to John and Ludovic Greville. Note also a column with grotesque heads and interlocking arms, a feature peculiar to this district.

After leaving Drayton, the valley of the Sor Brook is crossed and **Wroxton** is ¾ m. beyond. This, like most of the villages of this district, is built chiefly of warm brown stone, many of the cottages having mullioned windows and thatched or stone roofs. The church is at the end of the street, which runs straight on where the main road turns r., and is a Dec. building of much interest, with a tower rebuilt by Sanderson Miller (see Edgehill) in 1747. The font is Dec. and has figures in relief carved upon it; the old rood-screen, also Dec., has had Jacobean additions attached to it, including a bas-relief of the Sacrifice of Isaac on the E. side. There is a large amount of Jacobean woodwork in the church, including the pulpit, Communion rails, table and reredos, all well carved. The chancel contains the very handsome alabaster tomb of Sir William Pope (1631) with recumbent effigies to himself and his wife, with kneeling figures of their children, with canopy above. On the S. side is a monument by Flaxman with figure of Britannia and bust of Lord North, who was Prime Minister (1770–82) at the time of the loss of the American colonies. He was also the second Earl of Guildford, with which title that of North was merged. He lived at Wroxton Abbey, which lies to the S. of the church, but which is a private house and shown only by special permission. It is a very fine Jacobean house standing in beautiful timbered surroundings and was built in 1618 by Sir William Pope on the site of an Augustinian Priory. Later, it passed to the Norths by marriage and they held it until the present century.

From Wroxton to Edgehill is 5 m. by the direct road. At the far end of the village is an old stone signpost dated 1686. A more interesting route, however, is to take a short detour involving only 1 m. extra via Horley and Hornton, both of which have interesting churches. Take the first turn r. by telephone box in Wroxton village and **Horley** is reached in 1 m. Here the church lies back on the l. of the road up the hill after passing the turn to Hanwell on r. It is almost entirely Dec. and contains a fine wall-painting of St Christopher, dating from the mid-15th cent. From the mouths of the figure proceed scrolls, upon which are inscriptions. St Christopher asks, 'What art you, bar I never so hevy a thynge', to which the Child replies, 'Yey I be hevy no wonder ys for I am ye kynge of blys.' The painting is

9 ft. in width and at the bottom are two small fishermen and a number of fish. 2 m. further on, turn l. down a steep hill into **Hornton**, a village in a deep valley, in the neighbourhood of which good stone, known as Hornton stone is quarried. It is a pleasant village with some old cottages and a gabled manor-house dated 1661. The church has a Trans. N. arcade and font and a Dec. S. arcade. Over the chancel arch is a wall-painting of the Doom; to the N. is another painting of the Deposition and to the S. is St George and the Dragon. Part of an old screen has been used to separate the altar in the S. aisle from the nave.

Return from Hornton by climbing the hill and turning l. at the top. In 1 m. the main road A 422 is reached. Here turn r. and shortly r. again at signpost to 'Ratley, Kineton and Warwick'. Opposite this turning is *Upton House*, now National Trust property. The house, together with its rich collection of pictures, porcelain and furniture was given to the Trust by Lord Bearsted in 1948. (Visitors are admitted every Wednesday throughout the year, 2.30–6. p.m. and every Sat. during July, Aug. and Sept.)

Shortly after turning r. at Upton House, fork l. by quarry and the **Edgehill Tower** is soon reached. The crest of the ridge is actually in Warwickshire at this point, though for most of its length the ridge forms a natural boundary between Oxfordshire and Warwickshire. The tower itself is a 'Gothick' structure, designed by Sanderson Miller, squire of Radway, just below the ridge, and a famous amateur architect in his day. It was erected in 1745 and is part of the *Castle Inn*. From the room at the summit on a clear day a magnificent prospect over the Midlands is visible, comprising almost the whole of Warwickshire and Worcestershire, and stretching for many miles across the great plain as far as the Wrekin in Shropshire far to the N.W., the Malvern Hills on the extreme left, with the towers of Worcester Cathedral and Warwick Castle and the spires of Coventry,

as well as countless small villages in the middle distance. Immediately below the tower the ground falls sharply away down a steeply wooded slope. The trees have all grown up since the Civil War, when the Royalist forces were drawn up along the ridge on Oct. 23rd, 1642, on the morning of the battle of Edgehill, the Parliamentary forces being in the plain below. Charles decided to attack the opposing army from his superior position on the ridge, but while Prince Rupert's cavalry charge routed the enemy's right wing, the Royalist infantry was very nearly defeated by the Parliamentary troops.

Turn round at the Tower and at once fork r. (signpost 'Stratford-on-Avon') and in 1 m., where the road bends r. at the top of Sunrising Hill, fork l. (signpost 'Epwell'). This road runs along the top of the ridge, once again crossing the border back into Oxfordshire, very fine views being obtained over the flat country on the r. At the cross-roads by Edgehill Aerodrome, turn l. for **Shenington**, a pretty village with a green and thatched cottages, the church of which is on the r. just beyond. It is a fine building, whose Norm. origin is proclaimed by the former chancel arch, which has been rebuilt on the N. side of the chancel; it is a splendid enriched example. The S. arcade has characteristic E.E. 'stiff-stalk' foliage and a capital showing grotesque heads. On the S. exterior is a curious carving representing a saint with a cow, of which nothing is known. The tower is late Perp.

Shenington and Alkerton form one village, divided by the steep valley of the upper Sor brook. **Alkerton** church lies half-way up the further hill on the l. just before reaching the cross; it adjoins a fine Jacobean rectory. The church has another feature, characteristic of this particular district, in the form of a richly-ornamented cornice similar to the magnificent examples at Adderbury (see R. 10). Here there are some exceedingly quaint carvings, including little figures playing musical instruments, such as a harp and an organ. These are of early Perp. date, but the earliest parts of the church (the N. and S. arches of the tower) are Norm., the nave arcade being E.E.

At the top of the hill above Alkerton village, turn r. along a perfectly negotiable but somewhat narrow lane, about 1½ m. long, for Shutford. The lane descends into the valley of a small brook, after crossing which turn r. into **Shutford** village. At the top of the village is the church, which has a Trans. N. arcade and a Perp. oak screen. Adjacent to it is the manor-house, with a tower. It contains a gallery, 80 ft. in length, in which Lord Saye and Sele secretly drilled soldiers before the outbreak of the Civil War. At the corner by the church, turn r. and shortly l. again for Swalcliffe. Shutford lies between two of the curious conical hills, Jester's Hill and Barton Hill, which are characteristic of this district. A good view of several of them is visible from the high ground between Shutford and Swalcliffe. In 1½ m. turn l., on to the main road B 4035, and in 1 m. **Swalcliffe** (pronounced Swaycliffe) is reached. At the entrance to the village (l.) is a good tithe-barn, which, like the one at Adderbury, was built by William of Wykeham, the founder of Winchester College, who lived at Broughton Castle (see below). This barn has two gateways facing the church, which lies just beyond. The first building which stood on the site of the present church was of either Sax. or very early Norm. date, two of the original windows being still visible above the nave arcades. The N. arcade is the earlier, being Norm., and the S. rather later in the Trans. style. The S. aisle, doorway and porch are E.E. and also the lower part of the tower, to which two Perp. storeys were later added. The chancel is good Dec. with geometrical tracery in the windows, and there is also a gilded Perp. screen. Note also two coloured Jacobean monuments to members of the Wykeham family, one with kneeling effigies and the other with portrait busts, also some Jacobean pews and the pulpit (1639).

[1 m. to the N.E. of Swalcliffe, reached by a lane which turns l. at the E. end of the village is the prehistoric camp of Madmarston Hill.]

Continuing along the road to Banbury, **Tadmarton** is the next village reached. The church here originated in Norm. times, and the N. arcade remains. Later remodellings are shown by the beautiful N. door (E.E.), the lower part of the tower and many E.E. window frames, into which Perp. tracery has later been inserted. The church finally assumed its present shape with the erection of the Perp. clerestory and the upper stage of the tower. The interior contains a very remarkable Dec. font ornamented with grotesque heads and a Royal Arms of George IV. In the churchyard is a very large yew with many separate trunks, and undoubtedly of great age.

[1 m. along the road towards Banbury is Lower Tadmarton. A turning r. here leads to Wigginton by a road crossing **Tadmarton Heath** (1½ m.) where, at the top of a hill, the road cuts through the ramparts of a large prehistoric camp.]

The last place along the road to Banbury is **Broughton,** with its historic and still intact castle, well seen from the church, which lies to the N. of it. To reach the church, walk down the passage on l. of road just before reaching the Saye and Sele Arms on the l. The church is of great interest and beauty and is extremely good Dec. with tower, spire and window tracery, stone screen and sedilia all illustrating the grace and loveliness of this style at its zenith. Note particularly the W. doorway with its 'ball-flower' ornamentation. The church abounds with tombs of various holders of the castle. The coloured effigy of Sir Thomas Broughton, the founder (c. 1300), lies under a recess in the S. aisle, and that of another member of the Broughton family on an altar-tomb between chancel and aisle. In the chancel itself is the fine altar-tomb with alabaster effigies of Sir Thomas Wykeham and his lady; he first fortified the castle in the 15th cent. The church retains considerable remains of wall-paintings, among which may be mentioned an Annunciation and other scenes on the N. wall of chancel, and a Crucifixion on the W. pillar of the nave arcade. Note also a brass to a lady (1414) at the E. end of S. aisle and a Norm. font from an earlier church on the site.

Broughton Castle, the residence of the Lords Saye and Sele since the 15th cent., is shown to visitors who make a written application to Lord Saye and Sele. The earliest building on the site was probably a manor-house erected by Sir Thomas Broughton c. 1300, the waters of the Sor Brook being utilised to form a moat. Later it was purchased by William of Wykeham, the famous Bishop of Winchester and Chancellor to Edward III and Richard II. He bequeathed it to a great-nephew, from whom it passed by marriage to the Fiennes family (pronounced 'Fines'), Lords Saye and Sele, who then took the name of Wykeham-Fiennes. In 1781 the family died out in the male line, whereupon a cousin, Thomas Twistleton, who succeeded, adopted the name of Twistleton-Wykeham-Fiennes. The most famous member of the family was William, the eighth Baron (1582–1662) who was known as 'Old Subtilty', owing to his considerable adroitness in diplomacy. He was one of the peers who supported the Parliament at the outbreak of the Civil War and held secret meetings in the castle, which were attended by such leaders as the Earl of Essex, Hampden and Pym. He remained prominent in the councils of the Parliament until 1648, when he refused to support Cromwell and the military clique surrounding him. He then retired into private life until the Restoration, when he became one of the advocates of the return of Charles II and was rewarded by being made Lord Privy Seal. He was thus an almost unique case of a Parliamentary leader who held high office after the

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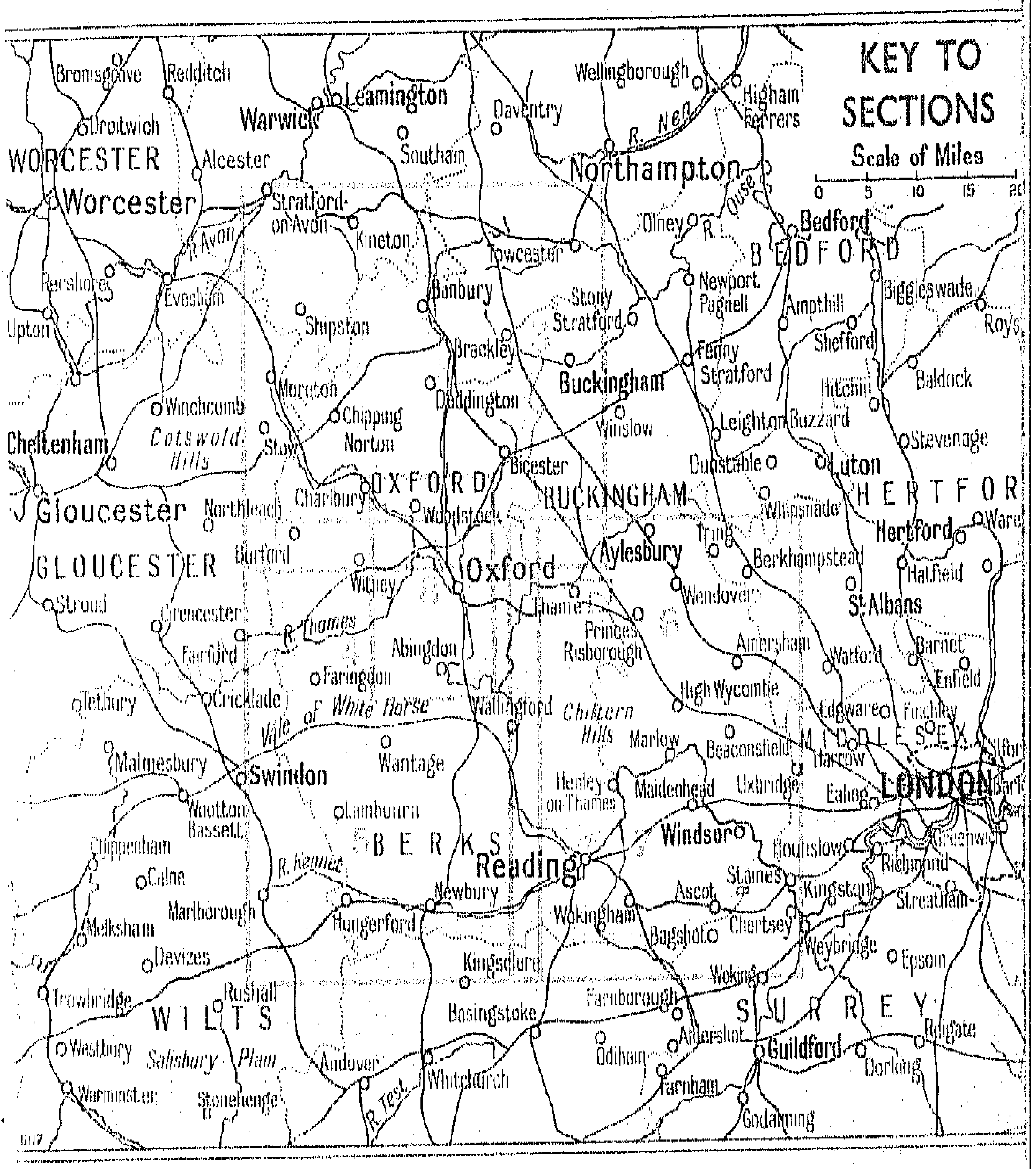
TOURING MAPS OF
BERKSHIRE AND OXFORD



NOTE TO MAP SECTIONS

Main Roads ═══ Places of Interest *Brill*
Other Roads ═══ Railways ───
Picturesque Roads ═══ County Boundaries ·········
Heights in feet 275

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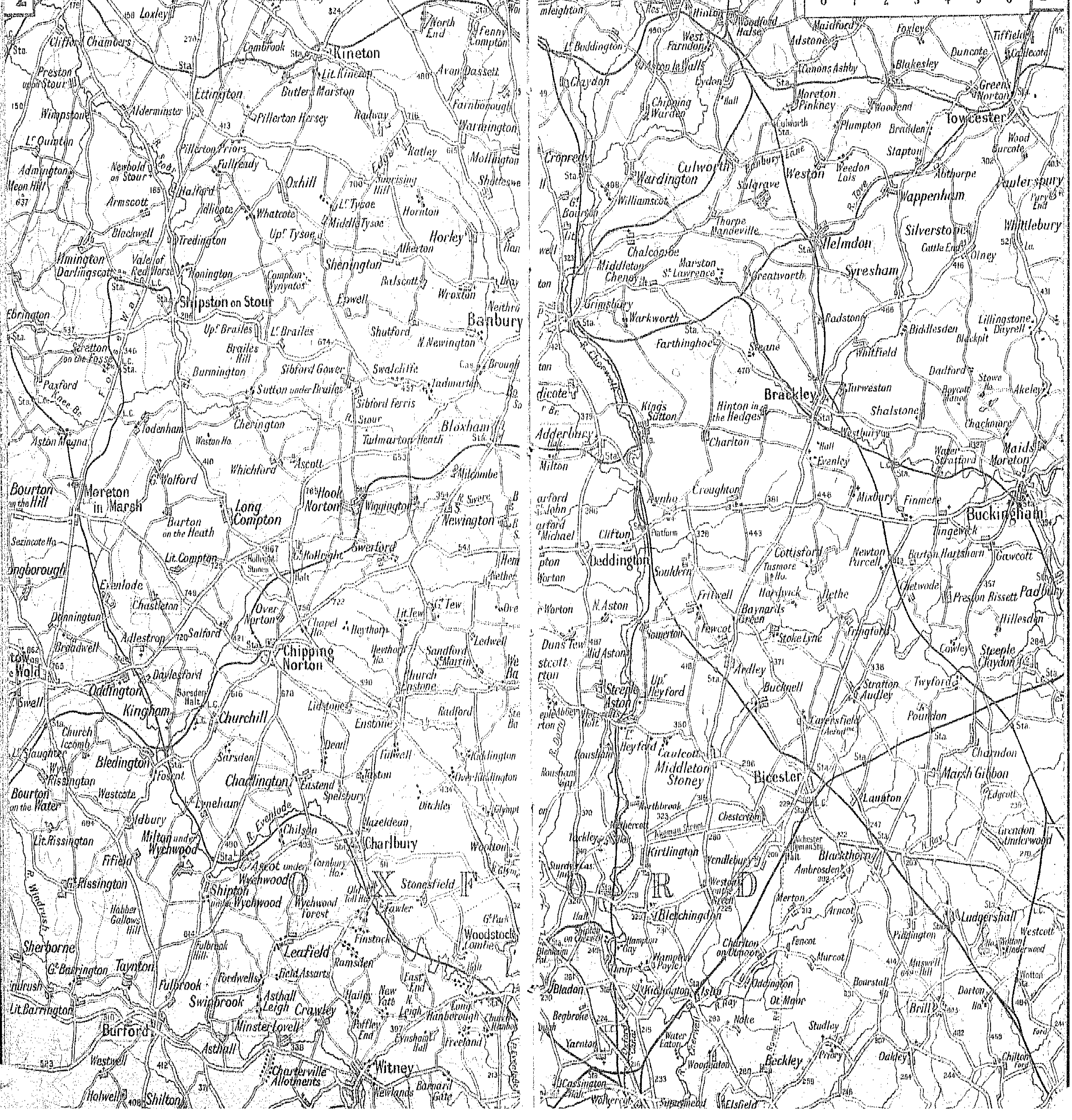
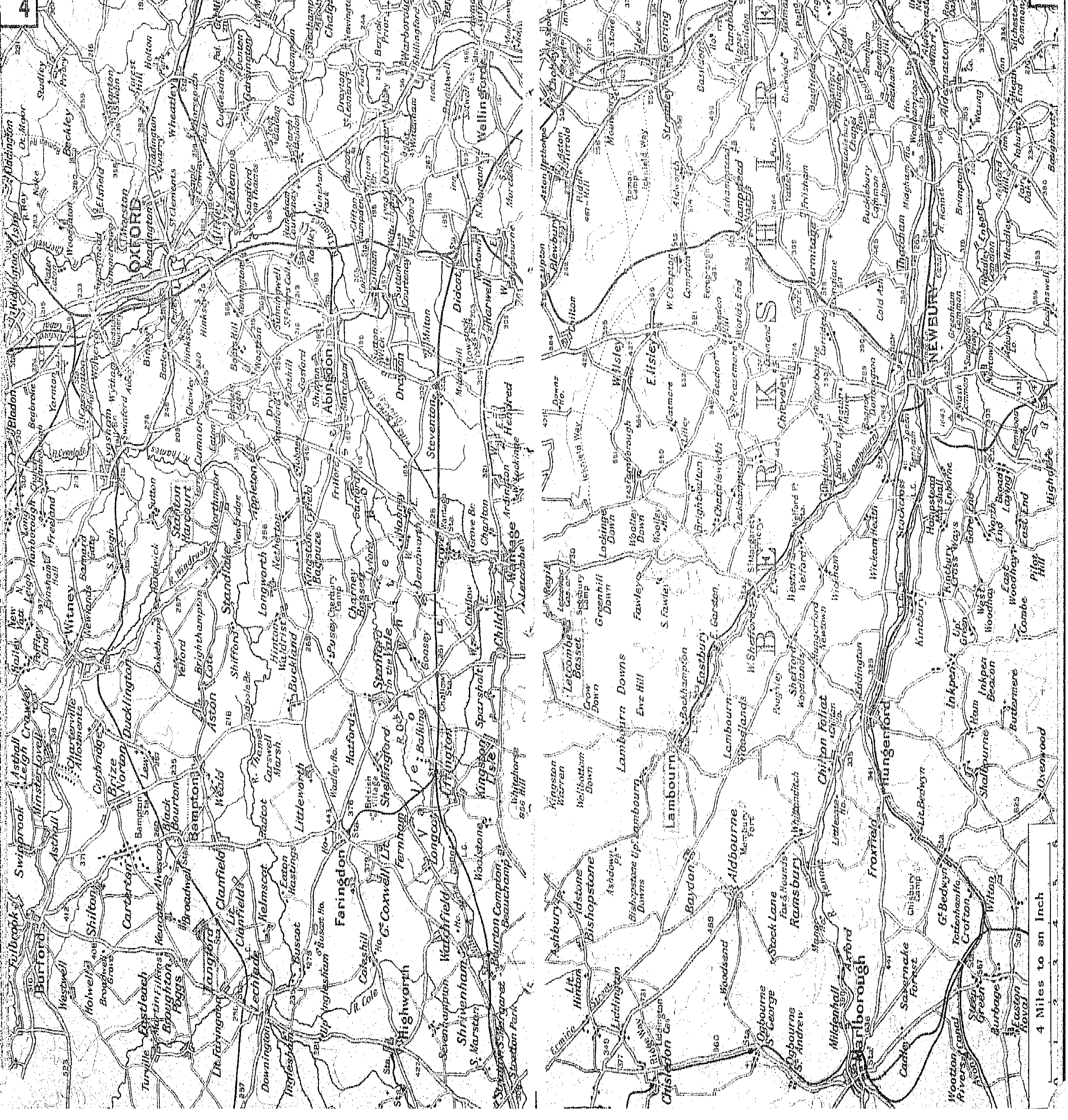
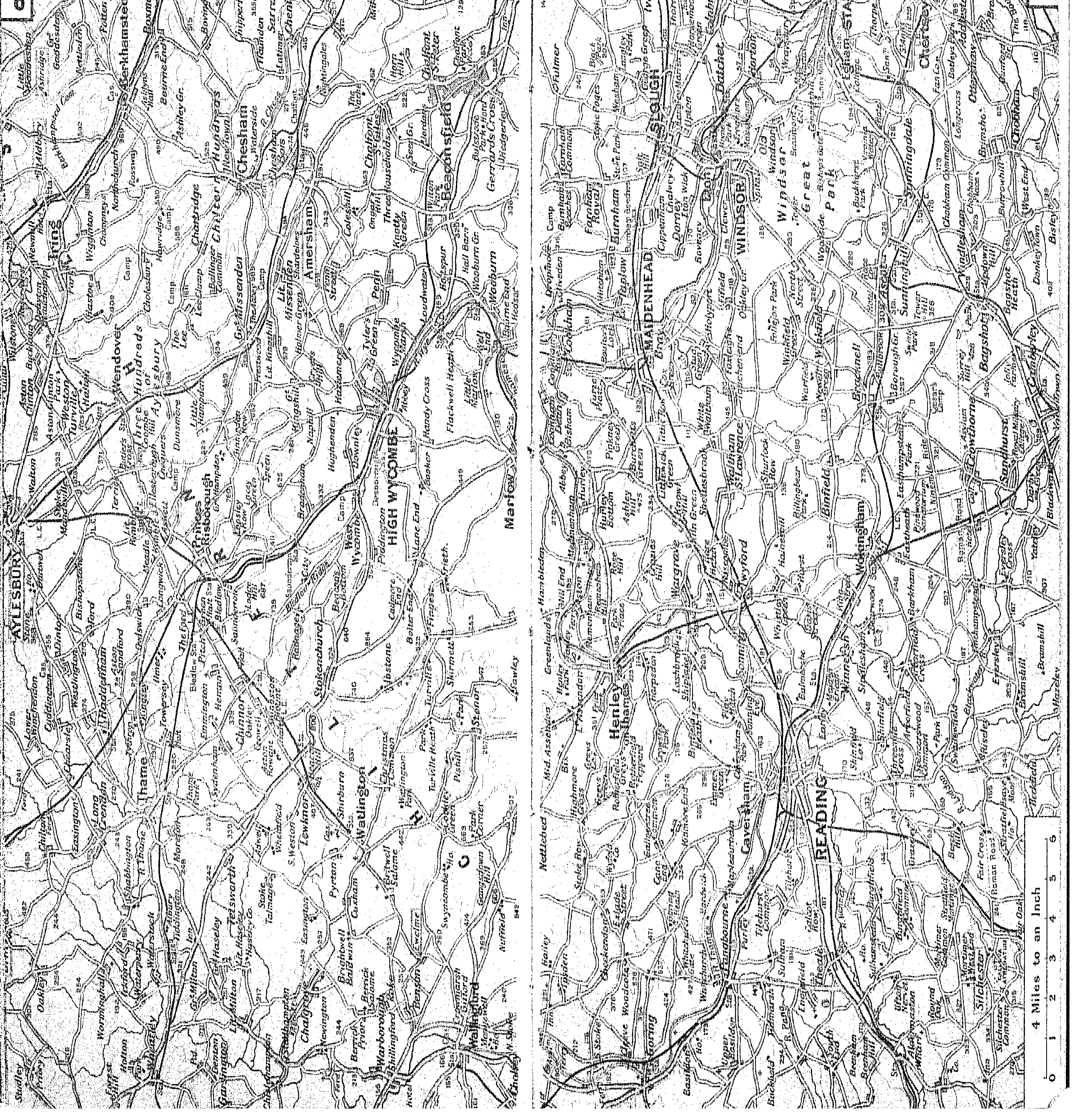


Kineton
Loxley
Clifford Chambers
Preston upon Stour
Combrook
Lit. Kineton
North End
Fenny Compton
Avon Dassett
Ettington
Butlers Marston
Alderminster
Pillerton Hersey
Radway
Farnborough
Warmington
Wimpstone
Lr. Quinton
Pillerton Priors
Fulready
Ratley
Mollington
Admington
Newbold on Stour
Oxhill
Edge Hill
Sunrising Hill
Hornton
Shotteswell
Meon Hill
Halford
Armscott
Idlicote
Whatcote
Lr. Tysoe
Middle Tysoe
Up. Tysoe
Blackwell
Tredington
Alkerton
Horley
Ilmington
Darlingscott
Vale of Red Horse
Honington
Compton Wynyates
Shenington
Balscott
Wroxton
Shipston on Stour
Epwell
Ebrington
Up. Brailes
Lr. Brailes
Shutford
Banbury
N. Newington
Stretton on the Fosse
Brailes Hill
Burmington
Sibford Gower
Swalcliffe
Paxford
Sutton under Brailes
Tadmarton
Sibford Ferris
Todenham
Cherington
R. Stour
Bloxham
Aston Magna
Weston Ho.
Tadmarton Heath
Whichford
Ascott
Milcombe
Gt. Wolford
Bourton on the Hill
Moreton in Marsh
Hook Norton
Wiggington
S. Newington
R. Swere
Barton on the Heath
Long Compton
Sezincote Ho.
Lit. Compton
Gt. Rollright
Rollright Stones
Swerford
Evenlode
Chastleton
Over Norton
Gt. Tew
Lit. Tew
Chapel Ho.
Heythorp
Donnington
Adlestrop
Salford
Chipping Norton
Sandford St. Martin
Ledwell
Broadwell
Heythorp Ho.
Stow on the Wold
Oddington
Daylesford
Sarsden Halt
Church Enstone
Kingham
Churchill
Lidstone
Enstone
Radford
Church Icomb
Lr. Slaughter
Sarsden
Dean
Fulwell
Kiddington
Bledington
Foscot
Wyck Rissington
Chadlington
Eastend
Spelsbury
Over Kiddington
Bourton on the Water
Westcote
Lyneham
Ditchley
Idbury
R. Evenlode
Chilson
Hazeldean
Lit. Rissington
Milton under Wychwood
Charlbury
Wootton
Fifield
Ascot under Wychwood
Cornbury Ho.
Gt. Rissington
Shipton under Wychwood
Wychwood Forest
Stonesfield
O X F O R D
Fawler
Woodstock
Gt. Park
Windrush
Sherborne
Fulbrook Hill
Leafield
Finstock
Gt. Barrington
Taynton
Fordwells
Ramsden
Fulbrook
Fiddington
Swinbrook
Asthall Leigh
Crawley
Hailey
New Yatt
N. Leigh
Long Hanborough
Lit. Barrington
Burford
Minster Lovell
Poffley End
Freeland
Asthall
Westwell
Charterville Allotments
Witney
Holwell
Shilton
Newlands
Barnard Gate
Hinton
Woodford Halse
West Farndon
Maidford
Adstone
Foxley
Tiffield
Duncote
Lr. Boddington
Aston le Walls
Canons Ashby
Blakesley
Claydon
Eydon
Moreton Pinkney
Greens Norton
Chipping Warden
Culworth
Plumpton
Woodend
Towcester
Bradden
Cropredy
Wardington
Banbury Lane
Weston
Weedon Lois
Slapton
Abthorpe
Sulgrave
Wappenham
Paulerspury
Williamscot
Thorpe Mandeville
Silverstone
Whittlebury
Chalcombe
Helmdon
Cattle End
Olney
Middleton Cheney
Marston St. Lawrence
Greatworth
Syresham
Grimsbury
Warkworth
Radstone
Biddlesden
Lillingstone Dayrell
Farthinghoe
Steane
Whitfield
Dadford
Stowe Ho.
Akeley
Brackley
Turweston
Kings Sutton
Hinton in the Hedges
Boycott Manor
Shalstone
Chackmore
Adderbury
Charlton
Westbury
Milton
Evenley
Water Stratford
Maids Moreton
Aynho
Croughton
Mixbury
Finmere
Buckingham
Clifton
Tingewick
Deddington
Souldern
Cottisford
Newton Purcell
Barton Hartshorn
Gawcott
Tusmore Ho.
Hardwick
Hethe
Chetwode
Preston Bissett
Padbury
N. Aston
Fritwell
Baynards Green
Hillesden
Duns Tew
Somerton
Fewcot
Stoke Lyne
Fringford
Cowley
Steeple Claydon
Mid Aston
Ardley
Steeple Aston
Up. Heyford
Bucknell
Stratton Audley
Twyford
Poundon
Lr. Heyford
Caulcott
Caversfield Aerodrome
Rousham
Middleton Stoney
Bicester
Charndon
Marsh Gibbon
Launton
Edgcott
Northbrook
Chesterton
Tackley
Akeman Street
Kirtlington
Wendlebury
Alchester Roman Site
Blackthorn
Grendon Underwood
Ambrosden
Weston on the Green
Bletchingdon
Merton
Arncot
Ludgershall
Westcott
Hampton Gay
Hampton Poyle
Charlton on Otmoor
Fencott
Murcot
Piddington
Wotton Underwood
Blenheim Park
Shipton on Cherwell
Thrup
Kidlington
Islip
Oddington
Bourstall
Muswell Hill
Dorton
Wotton
Bladon
Ot Moor
Brill
Dorton Ho.
Begbroke
R. Ray
Noke
Studley
Yarnton
Water Eaton
Oxford Canal
Beckley
Studley Priory
Oakley
Chilton
Woodeaton
Cassington
Wolvercot
Sunnymead
Elsfield


4
OXFORD
Witney
Burford
Abingdon
Faringdon
Wantage
Didcot
Wallingford
Dorchester
Bampton
Lechlade
Highworth
Shrivenham
Stanford in the Vale
Kingston Lisle
Childrey
Steventon
Harwell
Cumnor
Eynsham
Woodstock
Kidlington
Wheatley
Cuddesdon
Blewbury
Streatley
Goring
East Ilsley
West Ilsley
Hampstead Norris
Chieveley
NEWBURY
Thatcham
Aldermaston
Lambourn
Lambourn Downs
Letcombe Bassett
Aldbourne
Ramsbury
Hungerford
Kintbury
Inkpen
Shalbourne
Marlborough
Savernake Forest
Gt. Bedwyn
Froxfield
Chilton Foliat
Baydon
Bishopstone
Ashbury
Chiseldon
Ogbourne St. George
Ogbourne St. Andrew
Wootton Rivers
Burbage
Highclere
Ecchinswell
BERKS
R. Thames
R. Windrush
R. Kennet
R. Ock
R. Cole
R. Lambourn
Vale of White Horse
Icknield Way
Ridge Way
4 Miles to an Inch
0 1 2 3 4 5 6


AYLESBURY
Wendover
Tring
Berkhamsted
Chesham
Amersham
Gt. Missenden
Princes Risborough
HIGH WYCOMBE
Beaconsfield
Marlow
Thame
Watlington
Wallingford
Stokenchurch
Henley on Thames
MAIDENHEAD
SLOUGH
WINDSOR
Eton
READING
Caversham
Wokingham
Twyford
Bracknell
Sunninghill
Ascot
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Camberley
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4 Miles to an Inch
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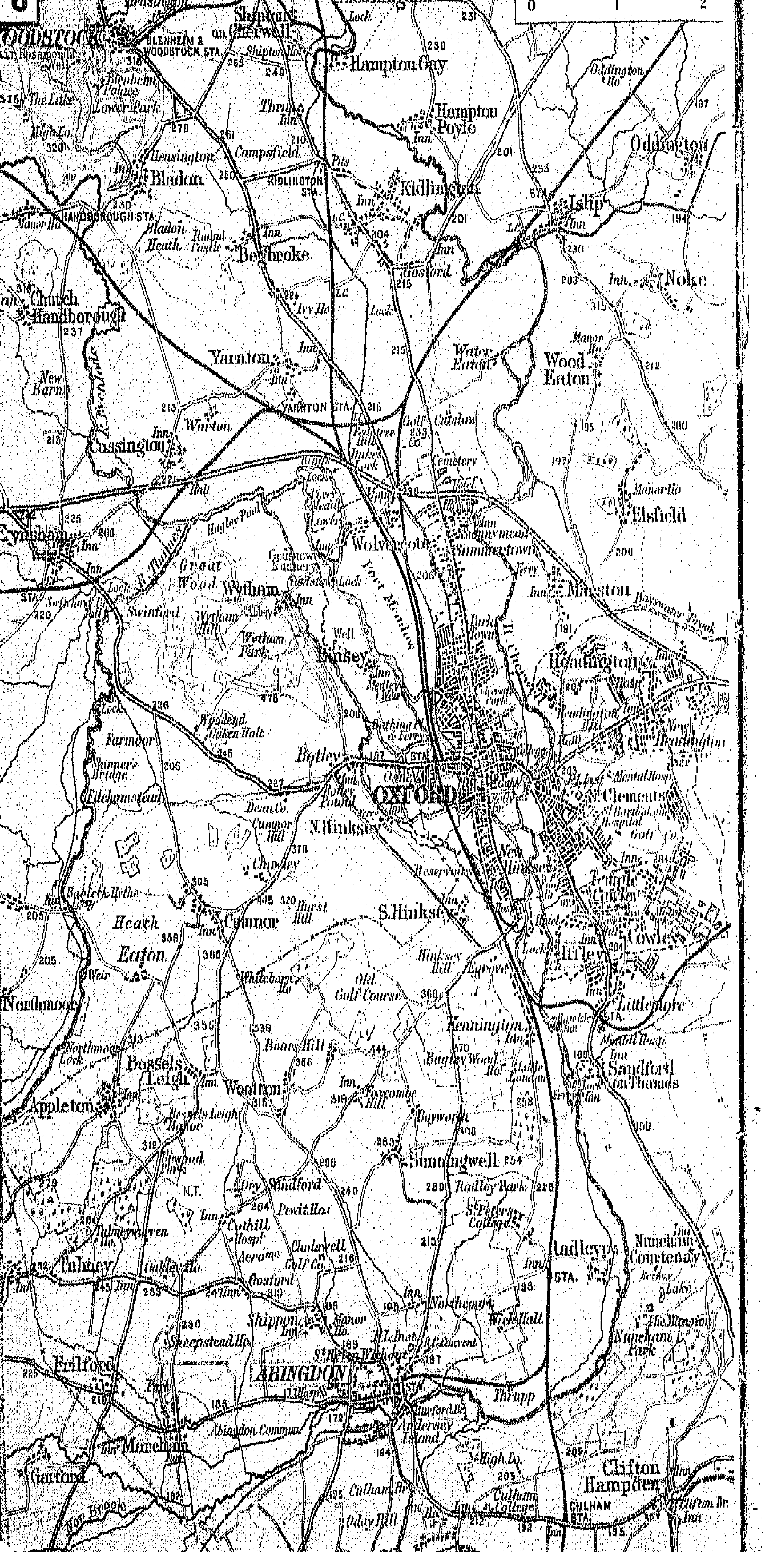

Restoration. The castle itself surrendered to Charles I after Edgehill, since Lord Saye and Sele and his retainers were absent from home and it was not possible to garrison it.

The castle dates from three main periods; of the earliest building erected by Sir Thomas Broughton in c. 1300 there remain a vaulted passage and stone staircases, chapel and priest's room, all in the Dec. style. In the 15th cent. Sir Thomas Wykeham was granted license to crenellate, or fortify, the castle, and of his work there remains the battlemented E. portion as well as the main gateway and outer wall. In the late 16th cent. the Fiennes family remodelled the castle, and the W. portion, with its large mullioned windows and many gables, is due to them. The interior contains some very fine rooms with good panelling, carved doorways and richly ornamented plaster ceilings.

Broughton is one of the most beautiful castles of its kind in all England, which is certainly a big claim, but the proud old building with its sylvan background, seen across the lily-studded waters of the moat, makes a perfect picture.

Banbury is reached in another 2½ m.

Route 11. Banbury to Deddington via Bloxham, returning via Adderbury, 14 m.

Leave Banbury Cross by the Oxford road and half-way up the hill turn r. at the strangely-named inn *The Case is Altered* along the road A 361. The first place reached is **Bloxham,** a large village whose magnificent church with tall tower and spire stands majestically upon a hill. This, together with its neighbours Adderbury and King's Sutton (Northants) which lie to the E. of it have given rise to the local saying:

> Bloxham for length
> Adderbury for strength,
> King's Sutton for beauty.

The last attribute certainly applies to all three, and 'length' is appropriate for Bloxham, with its spire rising to a height of 198 ft., while the sturdiness of Adderbury's shorter spire is well expressed by 'strength.' Most of Bloxham church is very beautiful Dec. of the best period, but there are some interesting remains of Norm. work and the Milcombe Chapel, to the S.E., is very fine Perp. The most striking features of the exterior are the sculptured representation of the 'Doom' over the W. doorway, enriched with 'ball-flower' ornamentation, and the W. window of the N. aisle. This has a cross worked into the tracery, upon which is the Head of Christ. Other features of the exterior are two sanctus bellcotes, the N. porch (Dec.) with its cornice of grotesque figures, and the S. porch which is E.E. with a parvise over, above which has been added another storey in the Perp. style. The S. doorway is Trans. and the chancel arch, though altered to the pointed style, has retained its original Norm. columns. A very remarkable feature indeed is the way that the enriched Norm. mouldings have been re-used as frames for the windows, when the original chancel was rebuilt in the Dec. style. It is certainly odd to observe Norm. beak-heads in such close juxtaposition to Dec. tracery. In the usual position opposite to the S. door are the remains of a wall-painting of St Christopher, whose head is missing. There are also some remnants of a Doom over the chancel arch and another piece of painting in the Milcombe Chapel, which also retains its original stone altar and reredos. Note also the beautiful Perp. screen and the font and a capital on N. side of nave carved with grotesque heads.

At the far end of the village, turn l. for the Barford villages. These are pleasantly situated in the valley of the Swere Brook. The first reached is **Barford St John,** the church of which lies up a turning on l. near the *Crown Inn* and is concealed by farm buildings. It has a good Norm. S. doorway, ornamented with zig-zag and a Trans. chancel arch. More interesting is the church of **Barford St Michael,**

which lies up a turning r. just across the bridge. This has a particularly fine N. doorway with a double row of beak-head and a tympanum carved with knotwork ornamentation. The tower and chancel arch are Trans., the nave arcade E.E. and the fine rood-screen is Perp.

After leaving the Barfords the road ascends to a ridge overlooking the Swere valley to the N. On the ridge is the hamlet of Hempton, which has a modern chapel, but it contains a good Norm. font, which came from the neighbouring village of Over Worton. Just over 1 m. along the ridge is the large village of **Deddington,** on the main road from Oxford to Banbury. In an old folk-rhyme the place is described as 'Drunken Deddington'. It is a decayed market-town which once boasted a castle, the earthworks of which are still to be seen to the E. of the old house known as the Castle, a Tudor building to the N. of the church. In the castle Piers Gaveston, the favourite of the unfortunate Edward II, was arrested by the Earl of Warwick before being carried to Warwick for execution. At that time the town was of sufficient importance to send two members to Parliament.

The church is a handsome Dec. building containing various features of interest, including a Perp. rood-screen, a female effigy under an arched recess in the S. aisle, a 'Restoration' font (1663) and, in the chancel, beautiful Dec. sedilia. The N. porch has Perp. fan-tracery vaulting. The tower was rebuilt in 1663 after its collapse in 1635. At the time of the Civil War, Charles I commandeered the bells for the making of munitions on the specious grounds that the people of Deddington, having no church tower, would no longer require them! Two old statues of SS Peter and Paul remain from the former tower.

Leave Deddington by the Banbury road and the large and attractive village of **Adderbury** is reached in 3 m. This has a triangular tree-shaded green, around which are grouped several fine old houses, one on the W. side being dated 1656, once occupied by Lord Montague, a Minister of William III. The very magnificent Dec. church lies to the W. of the green and is renowned for the extraordinary variety of its carvings. Particularly noticeable are the cornices running round the exterior, with every imaginable variation of men, beasts, birds and flowers. Inside also there are two capitals to the pillars dividing nave from transepts, that on the N. side being carved with four knights' heads and that on the S. with four ladies' heads. The roof bosses and corbel heads supporting the main tie-beams also display a variety of grotesque carvings. Other points of note are the good N. and S. porches, the very beautiful rood-screen and, in the S. transept, an old altar-slab and a fine brass to a knight and his lady (1460). The tower and spire are noted for their 'strength' (see Bloxham) as well as for their beauty. The tower contains a fine peal of bells and a carillon which plays tunes at certain hours. In the westernmost window of the S. aisle is a Head of Christ upon a crucifix in the tracery similar to that at Bloxham. To the N. of the church are the old rectory and a tithe-barn, built by William of Wykeham, the famous Bishop of Winchester, who lived at Broughton Castle (see R. 12).

Banbury is reached in another 3 m.

Route 12. Banbury to Great Tew via Duns Tew, returning via S. Newington, 21 m.

Take the Oxford road (A 41) from Banbury Cross and after passing through Adderbury and Deddington (see R. 11), take a turn r. for Duns Tew, 1½ m. beyond Deddington (for description of the route through **Duns Tew and Great Tew**, see R. 2). Take the Banbury road out of Great Tew and on reaching the main road A 361, turn r. for S. Newington.

††A pleasant deviation of 3 m. can be made from this point by turning l. on to the main road and, after passing the *Mason's Arms Inn* on r., turning r. to **Swerford.** This is a very beautifully situated village in the deep wooded valley of the Swere Brook. The church has an E.E. spire, a Dec. S. doorway, porch and font, the remainder being Perp. Take the Hook Norton road out of the village and after crossing bridge, turn r. for **Wigginton** (1 m.). After crossing bridge just before reaching village, turn r. and at the far end of the village street is the church. This is an interesting medley of architectural styles, the tower and clerestory being Perp., the nave and aisles E.E. and the chancel Dec. with some good details, especially a canopied seat ornamented with 'ball-flower'. There are also two arched recesses, one containing the effigy of a cross-legged knight and the other that of a man with two kneeling children. To return to the main road, turn r. at Wigginton church and S. Newington is 1 m. distant.††

S. Newington, a pleasant village in the valley of the Swere brook, is reached in 2 m. from the junction of the road from Great Tew with the main road and the church is up a turning on r. at the further end of the village. It is an interesting building architecturally, with a Trans. N. arcade and an E.E. S. arcade, but the supreme interest of the church is the wonderful series of wall-paintings of two different dates, which were uncovered and preserved by Professor E. W. Tristram, F.S.A. in 1931. The earlier series are in the N. aisle and date from c. 1350.

From W. to E. these represent the following subjects: (1) the Martyrdom of St Thomas of Canterbury; (2) the execution of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster. He was popular owing to his championship of the people's rights, but was beheaded by Edward II in 1322 as a traitor, after his rebellion against the king. He was later venerated as a martyr, though it is rare to find pictures of him. At his execution, tradition says, he was struck several times before his head was finally severed from his body, and this painting shows the blood spurting from the neck; (3) the Annunciation; (4) St James and a small figure of a donor of the wall-paintings (on splay of easternmost window of N. aisle); (5) the Virgin and Child and two donors; (6) St Margaret of Antioch and her symbol, a dragon (on the splay of E. window, N. aisle). On the N. wall of the nave is a later series of wall-paintings, dating from c. 1500. These illustrate the Passion of Christ and from W. to E. depict the following subjects; the Triumphal Entry; the Agony in the Garden; ††a missing scene†† the Scourging; Christ bearing the Cross; the Crucifixion; ††a missing scene††; the Resurrection. There are also the Instruments of the Passion shown hanging from a tree. Over the chancel arch are the remains of a Doom.

The return to Banbury (5 m.) is through Bloxham with its magnificent church (see R. 11).

Route 13. Banbury to Burford, via the Rollright Stones and Chipping Norton, 30 m.

Leave Banbury by the Bloxham road as in R. 11. The direct route via Chipping Norton to Burford is 22 m., but it is a somewhat dull road and by far the most interesting way is to include the Rollright Stones, making a detour of 8 m.

After passing Bloxham, turn r. off main road ½ m. beyond the village for **Milcombe.** This has a restored E.E. church, but retains a good Perp. screen. 3 m. beyond is the large village of **Hook Norton,** many of whose inhabitants are engaged in iron mining. Keep l. on entering village and shortly turn r. for the church, which is large and interesting. It belongs to three main periods, the earliest part being the Norm. chancel and the very notable font, upon which are carved figures of Adam and Eve, also Sagittarius, the archer. Most of the remainder of the church is Dec., with the exception of the Perp. tower and clerestory. An unusual feature is the large Perp. window over the chancel arch, in front of which is a band of open quatrefoils.

At the far end of the village, turn l. and in 1 m. turn r., and in 1½ m. is **Great Rollright.** Here is another interesting church, entered from the S. by a rich Norm. doorway ornamented with zig-zag and having a tympanum upon which is carved a crocodile in the act of swallowing a man. The church is mainly E.E. in style, but with later features added, such as the beautiful Dec. S. porch and a richly ornamented cornice showing many grotesque carvings. The interior contains a Perp. rood-screen and a brass to Jacob Battersby, priest (1525).

After leaving the church keep straight on over the crossroads in village and in another mile cross the main road. The road now runs along a bold ridge dividing Oxfordshire (l.) from Warwickshire, with wide-spreading views over both counties. The **Rollright Stones** are ½ m. along the ridge. These consist of a stone circle on the l. and the King's Stone in the field opposite, on r., and therefore just in Warwickshire. In the S.E. corner of the field in which the circle stands, at a distance of about ¼ m., is a group of five stones which are the remains of a cromlech or burial chamber. These stones are known as the Whispering Knights. As is usual, when the origin of prehistoric monuments is in question, a legend has grown up about these stones. The tale runs that as a king, marching from Oxfordshire into Warwickshire, halted his army on the ridge, a witch confronted him saying,

If Long Compton thou shalt see
King of all England you shall be.

He therefore went forward for a short distance in order to do this, but the ground began to rise in front of him, thus preventing him from seeing Long Compton, which lies just down the hill in the valley below. Thereupon the witch, cackling with evil laughter, cried out,

Stand fast stick, stand fast stone!
King of England thou shalt be none!

The king and his army, together with a group of knights, who had remained in the rear of the army in order that they might plot against the king, were then all turned to stone. The witch at the same time turned herself into an elder tree to keep guard over her petrified victims, and it is said that, if the tree into which she changed herself be cut, the stones start writhing and wriggling as if beginning to come to life. As, however, there are a great many small elder trees in the vicinity of the stones, the experiment is difficult to make!

The King's Stone is a curiously twisted monolith, about 8 ft. high, and has a fantastic resemblance to a human figure leaning forward, while in front of him the ground rises in a curious little mound, thus preventing anyone standing at that particular spot from seeing Long Compton, although it is visible from all along the ridge on either side. The Whispering Knights, also, vaguely suggest a group of people standing close together. The circle itself is somewhat unimpressive, as the stones composing it are for the most part of small size, though one on the N. side is about 7 ft. in height. They number about sixty, and another Rollright tradition has it that it is quite impossible to count the stones accurately, no correct figure having ever been arrived at! Of the date and purpose of the stones it is difficult to write with any accuracy, but they were certainly of religious significance and probably date from the neolithic period, which is estimated as between c. 1900 and 1700 B.C. The theory that these kind of prehistoric monuments were druidical in origin has been completely exploded for many years. Druids may, indeed, have used them for their ceremonies, but they are, of course, many centuries older.

Proceeding along the ridge beyond the Rollright Stones, keep l. at fork (signpost 'Stow-on-the-Wold') and in 2 m. is the cross-roads, where the *Cross Hands Inn* stands. Here turn l. for Chipping Norton.

[A short excursion to **Chastleton House** (2 m.) is well worth making from this point, if desired. Turn r. at the inn and at once l. into road A 436 and in 1 m. turn r. into a by-road, which leads through pleasant woodlands to Chastleton. This small village stands in a tongue of Oxfordshire on the northern or Warwickshire side of the ridge. Chastleton House, a magnificent Elizabethan house (open daily, Tues. excepted, adm. 2/–) was built by Walter Jones, a wool merchant of Witney, who bought the manor in 1603 from Robert Catesby, who later became famous as a Gunpowder Plot conspirator. Walter Jones was an ancestor of Mrs Whitmore-Jones, the present owner. The house was the scene of an exciting escape after the battle of Worcester at the end of the Civil War, when the Parliamentary cause finally triumphed. Capt Arthur Jones, escaping from the battlefield, was hotly pursued by some Parliamentary troopers who were under the impression that they were pursuing Charles II himself. Capt Jones just managed to outstrip them and hide in the secret chamber before his pursuers were thundering on the front door. They proceeded to search the house from garret to cellar and, their suspicions having been aroused by the discovery of an extremely spent horse in the stables, they decided to spend the night at the house. Unfortunately they chose to sleep, by an unlucky chance, in the very room out of which the secret chamber opened. Mrs Jones acted with great resource and, having drugged the wine of her uninvited and most unwelcome guests, managed to assist her husband's escape from the secret chamber, in the course of which he had actually to climb over their sleeping bodies! The chamber is still shown to visitors, together with much else of the greatest interest, such as various relics of Charles I, including his Bible, brought here by Bishop Juxon, who attended him on the scaffold, and who retired to Little Compton nearby during the Commonwealth. Notable apartments in the house are the drawing-room, with a wonderful plaster ceiling with pendant bosses, and the Long Gallery on the top floor, with a coved plaster ceiling. There is also a fine screen in the hall, a magnificent oak staircase and many beautifully panelled rooms containing a great deal of priceless furniture, including one of Queen Elizabeth's many beds, brought here from the old palace at Woodstock. From the roof there is an enchanting view over the box garden to the E. of the house, with its excellent topiary work, the bushes being cut into the shapes of animals etc. There is also a good view over the beautifully timbered parkland surrounding the house, on the N. side of which is an old dovecote. The church, adjacent to the house, and quite dwarfed by it, has a nave arcade, partly Trans. and partly E.E., and a Perp. tower built by Walter Jones, who built the house. There are some old bench-ends and tiles and a Jacobean pulpit and brasses. In this remote little church, Bishop Juxon continued to keep the faith of the Church of England alive, when it was proscribed by the Commonwealth, by continuing to read the services, although detection would have meant death.]

From the *Cross Hands Inn* it is a 3 m. descent into Chipping Norton. Just over 1 m. on the l. is the village of **Salford,** as unlike its great Lancashire namesake as it could possibly be, since it is a small stone-built village of typical Cotswold architecture. The church is chiefly E.E., but the N. doorway is Norm. and has a tympanum carved with the figure of Sagittarius the archer, similar to the one at Hook Norton. In the churchyard is an old cross and in the village another one.

Chipping Norton (*White Hart*, T.H., No. 2) is an old-fashioned stone-built market-town which clambers up the steep N. side of its valley, the higher portion of the town being nearly 700 ft. up. As it faces N. it is a very bleak place, but not unattractive. The name is derived from the Sax. word meaning 'to buy', hence a market, and Cheapside also derives from this source, Norton being merely 'the north town'. Apart from its present-day importance as a market, the town has also a brewery and a cloth mill. The church is large and exceedingly handsome and, like so many churches to be found both in the Cotswolds and in E. Anglia, was rebuilt in its present form by the prosperous clothiers of the 15th cent., and is therefore largely magnificent Perp., though the chancel is Dec. Particularly noticeable is the very fine hexagonal porch, which is vaulted and has a parvise above. The nave is of striking character, the stone panelling forming one vast pattern; the pillars extend right up to the roof and divide the large square windows of the clerestory. Features of note are the double N. aisle, the very beautiful E. window (Dec.) of the S. aisle and a stone parclose screen, also Dec., between the chancel and the N. aisle. There are two monuments with recumbent effigies in the N. aisle; one is an altar-tomb at the E. end with handsome alabaster figures to Richard Croft and his wife (1502) and the other, at the W. end, commemorates Thomas Rickardes and his wife (1579). To the E. of the church is a charming row of old almshouses, dated 1640.

Leave Chipping Norton from the centre of the town, by the Post Office, by road A 361 and Burford is reached in 10 m.

[For those who are amused by architectural freaks, the Kingham road should be followed for 2½ m. to the village of **Churchill,** where there is a church dating from 1826 which is a curious medley of Oxford buildings, Magdalen having evidently inspired the tower. The village is notable as being the birthplace, in 1732, of Warren Hastings. Turn l. by church to rejoin road to Burford via **Sarsden,** which lies prettily in a beech-clothed valley to the r. of the road. Here is a very fine wayside cross and a park, in which there is a beautiful lake. Sarsden House is Jacobean and the church adjacent to it is a classical building dating from 1760. Turn r. to the Burford road 1 m. beyond Sarsden cross-roads.]

The road from Chipping Norton to Burford traverses pleasant upland country which has the Cotswold characteristic of low-built stone walls. Wide views are obtainable as the road descends into the Evenlode Valley. At about 4 m. from Chipping Norton, a turn l. leads to Chadlington and at the top of the hill just before reaching this on the r. is a fine prehistoric camp. Just beyond the turning on the r. again is Lyneham Long Barrow and, near it, a prehistoric monolith, about 6 ft. high.

At the foot of the hill is Shipton-under-Wychwood (see R. 14) from which it is another 4 m. to Burford.

III. WEST OXFORDSHIRE

BURFORD
MINSTER LOVELL
WYCHWOOD FOREST
THE UPPER THAMES

III. WEST OXFORDSHIRE

BURFORD

Burford (*Cotswold Gateway*, No. 1; *Bull; Lamb; Corner House*, all No. 2) is one of the most charming and interesting of all the smaller towns in England, alike from its architectural distinction and its delightful situation, and it makes a good centre for the exploration of the Cotswolds. The town consists mainly of one broad street, lined with trees and many very beautiful old houses, which climbs steeply up from the Windrush to the ridge at the S. side of the valley. At the bottom is the magnificent church, its tall spire a prominent feature as one travels up the valley. Situated on the borderland between the two Saxon kingdoms of Mercia and Wessex, it saw some fighting in the year 752, when the army of Wessex was victorious. In memory of this, the townspeople used to carry a dragon, representing the Royal Standard of Wessex, in procession around the town on Midsummer Eve. In 1306, during the reign of Edward I, the town returned two members to Parliament, but as the particular parliament to which they were elected sat for only one day, and no other members were ever returned, this is the shortest-lived parliamentary borough on record. The town was often visited by various monarchs when hunting in the adjacent Wychwood Forest (see R. 14), and thus maintained its position throughout the Middle Ages. During the Civil War the most important event that took place here was the suppression of the 'Levellers' by Cromwell in 1649. These mutinous troops were sternly suppressed, after putting up only a slight resistance, by Cromwell and Fairfax, who, having imprisoned them in the church, took out three ringleaders and shot them against the churchyard wall, while their erstwhile comrades were paraded on the church roof in order to witness the spectacle. They were then pardoned and released, no doubt much impressed by the awful warning! Charles II and William III both visited the town and were each presented with saddles, for the manufacture of which Burford was once famous. The town declined after the end of the coaching days, for the railway passed it by, the nearest station being Shipton, 5 m. away. The growth of motor traffic, however, has brought new prosperity and vitality to the little town, which now bristles with hotels, guest-houses and accommodation of all kinds.

The church, at the bottom end of the town, is particularly magnificent even for this region. Norm. in origin, there remains of this style the lower part of the tower and the four great piers upon which it is built, as well as the fine W. doorway. The church was remodelled in the E.E. style, transepts being added, and later, the whole church was transformed into the Perp. style, when the spire was added, as well as a new upper stage to the tower. The very fine Perp. S. porch with its fan tracery roof was also added at this time. The three styles of architecture employed in the church are also well illustrated in the interior, especially below the tower. There are grotesque heads supporting the nave roof, some old glass in the W. window, interesting brasses and numerous old tombs, including that of Sir Lawrence Tanfield (1625), with coloured effigies of himself and his wife under a canopy and, at one end, the kneeling figure of Lucius Cary, second Viscount Falkland, killed at Newbury (q.v.). Upon the Dec. style font is punched the inscription 'Antony Sedley, 1649, prisner', the work of one of the Levellers, and there are many other interesting features.

To the S. of the church are the *Almshouses*, founded in 1457 by Richard, Earl of Warwick (the 'King-Maker') and, though rebuilt in 1828, the old Perp. front was retained. Adjacent is the *Grammar School*, now modernised, but of ancient foundation (1579), the founder bearing the appropriate name of Symon Wysdom.

Burford Priory was a small religious house at the end of Priory Lane. After the Dissolution, the site was granted to Edmund Harman, whose tomb is in the N. aisle of the church. Later Sir Lawrence Tanfield built a noble Elizabethan mansion on the site of the old Priory. Later it passed, through his daughter, to Lucius Cary, second Viscount Falkland, who was born there in 1610. He sold the property in 1624 to William Lenthall, the Speaker of the Long Parliament, who stood up so bravely for the freedom of debate at the outbreak of the Civil War. He retired here after the Restoration and died here in 1662, and the house belonged to the family until 1829. After this date it became ruinous, but has since been carefully restored and is now occupied by an Anglican sisterhood.

The *High Street* of Burford is well worth a close study, many of its beautiful old houses being of great interest. Starting at the bottom from the bridge over the Windrush, which is a medieval structure, on the l. is Symon Wysdom's house with an inscription and date (1576). This stands at the bottom of the street facing up it and further along on the r. is the Vicarage, dated 1672. A short distance beyond, on the r., is Priory Lane, on the right-hand corner of which is an old house with an oriel window, adjoining the *Bear Inn*. On the opposite corner is the *Cotswold Arms*, with a Perp. doorway. On the E. side of the High Street as it begins to ascend the hill is the Methodist Church (1750) with a fine classic front. On the W. side, higher up, is the former Crown Inn, with a doorway dated 1578. Adjoining this is the former George Inn, a three-gabled house with an archway below. Here Charles I slept the night when visiting the town. On the corner of Sheep Street just above is the Tolsey, or Town Hall, so called as tolls used to be paid here. It is a 15th-cent. gabled building standing upon stone pillars, with a projecting clock. Sheep Street also contains some very fine old houses. Opposite the Tolsey are three old houses, their gables ornamented with barge-boards. A few houses further up the hill on the same side is a Perp. doorway and just above this another old doorway bearing the monogram of Symon Wysdom and dated 1587. In Witney Street, which branches E. from the High Street, just below the Tolsey, is 'The Great House', a very stately building of the mid-17th cent. Besides these particular examples, however, the town retains a great number of fine old houses and probably contains a higher proportion of these than any other town of its size.

The neighbourhood of Burford is of singular beauty and interest and that portion which lies in Oxfordshire is described under R. 14 and R. 15. Much attractive country, however, lies in Gloucestershire and is therefore beyond the scope of this book. It includes the beautiful Cotswold scenery between Burford and Cheltenham, containing such lovely villages as Bibury, as well as outstanding churches like that built by the wool merchants at Northleach, and such features of interest as the Roman villa at Chedworth.

Route 14. Burford to the Wychwood Forest via the Evenlode valley, returning via the Windrush valley, 22 m.

Leave Burford by crossing bridge and turning r. for Shipton. In ½ m. is **Fulbrook,** where, up a lane on l., is the Trans. church, showing an interesting architectural development in the N. arcade, which has round Norm. pillars and capitals which, however, support pointed arches. Note also grotesque roof bosses (Perp.) and an old yew in the churchyard. At Fulbrook the road rises out of the Windrush valley and crosses a high tableland between it and the Evenlode valley, into which it descends to **Shipton-under-Wychwood.** As the name implies, this was all once a part of the royal forest, but the latter is now very much reduced in size and

only a small part remains (see later). Shipton is a delightful village, rich in old houses, notable among which is Shipton Court, a fine Elizabethan house on l. as the village is entered from Burford. It dates from the year of the Queen's death, 1603. Notable also is the *Shaven Crown Inn* (No. 2), in the centre of the village, with its good Tudor archway. The fine church has a beautiful E.E. tower and spire and adjacent to it is the Prebendal House, so called from the time when this church was a prebend to Salisbury Cathedral. Adjoining the house is an old tithe-barn. The interior of the church is very spacious and is chiefly E.E., an odd feature being the arches carried over the N. aisle from the columns of the N. arcade. Note the Perp. stone pulpit, also the font, upon the panel of which is the bear and ragged staff of the Earls of Warwick. (A good view of the church and surrounding old buildings may be obtained from the bridge over the Evenlode on the road to Chipping Norton.)

Turn r. in centre of village for **Ascot-under-Wychwood,** a small village whose church has a good deal of Norm. work remaining, in spite of many subsequent alterations. Turn r. at the green (signpost 'Leafield') and in ½ m. l., for Charlbury. The road now runs along a pleasant hillside with wide views across the Evenlode valley on l. In 2 m. there is a cross-roads, on the edge of Wychwood Forest (on the r.). From this point roads diverge to a number of interesting places. [½ m. down the Chadlington road on l. is a turn to **Shorthampton,** where there is a delightful little church showing Norm., E.E., Dec. and Perp. features. It still retains its 'horse-box' pews, pulpit and clerk's desk of the 18th cent. and is profusely decorated with medieval wall-paintings. **Chadlington** is 1½ m. from the Wychwood cross-roads. This village has several antiquities. The church, reached by turning r. in centre of village, has an E.E. nave, Dec. chancel and Perp. tower. ½ m. beyond this is the hamlet of Dean, where, by turning l. by the stump of an old cross and following road through Dean for 1 m. to the ridge above, the **Hawk Stone** is reached. This is a rude prehistoric monolith about 8 ft. in height, which stands in a field about 200 yds. to the l. of the road just after passing an old quarry on the r. There are fine views over the Evenlode valley from this point. **Knoll Bury** is a prehistoric encampment 1 m. from Chadlington cross-roads, reached by following road to Sarsden and Churchill.]

Wychwood Forest was for many centuries a royal hunting ground and as such was visited by many monarchs. During the 19th cent., however, when it had ceased to be so any longer, it was broken up into lots and sold, the only considerable portion now remaining being included in the estate of Cornbury Park, lying to the S.W. of Charlbury.

[A good idea of this may be gained by turning r. at the Wychwood cross-roads for Leafield, where turn l. and proceed through Finstock to the bridge over the Evenlode at Fawler, where the road rejoins the main route. This is a run of 6 m. through very pleasant woodland scenery.]

Resuming the route from Burford, the road descends into the Evenlode valley to **Charlbury,** where turn r. at the *White Hart* on entering the town. Charlbury is not of much interest, the church, mostly E.E., having been much restored. At the far end of the town, keep r. (B 4022) and in 2 m. Fawler is reached. From here there is a direct road to Witney (6 m.) but a pleasanter and more interesting way, both as regards scenery and archaeology, is by way of N. Leigh to Witney. For this route, keep l. at Fawler and follow a narrow lane which is, however, of good surface and quite negotiable. This threads the delightful scenery of the Evenlode valley, in 1½ m. crossing the railway and, shortly afterwards, the river. Just beyond this bridge is a cross-roads, where turn l. for the Roman Villa, which is reached in ¾ m. (see R. 3a). For N. Leigh, keep straight on over the cross-roads, in ½ m. keep l. at fork and in another ½ m. turn r. **N. Leigh,** the church of which is reached shortly on the r., is of great

interest and is described under R. 3a. At the top of the hill beyond church, keep straight on over cross-roads for **Witney,** 2 m. along the main road. (Witney is also described under R. 3a.) After crossing the Windrush in centre of town, turn r. into road A 40 for Burford. The road, once clear of the town, soon ascends to a bare ridge, giving beautiful views over the Windrush valley on the r. Particularly beautiful is the view of **Minster Lovell** (2 m. from Witney) with the ruins of its manor-house by the river, with a background of fine trees. To reach the village, turn r. down steep hill and cross the river. Pass the old *Swan Inn* (No. 3) to the further end of the village, where are situated the church and manor-house, The church is a good Perp. building and is cruciform with a central tower. This is very curiously constructed, the piers supporting it being detached from the walls of the church, to which they are connected by arches. The S. transept contains the fine tomb of William, Lord Lovell (c. 1430), around the sides of which are small statuettes, among which those of the Virgin and Child and St Christopher are notable. Lord Lovell was the builder of both the church and manor-house. The ruins of the manor-house (adm. 3*d.*) are just below the church and are in the guardianship of H.M. Ministry of Works. They consist chiefly of the hall, which is Perp. and must have been an exceedingly stately apartment when perfect. A vaulted passage leads into it from the N. This building was on the N. side of a quadrangle; foundations of other buildings have been excavated upon either side of it and on the S. side is the river. At the S.W. corner is a Perp. tower.

Minster Lovell became the property of the Lovell family in Norm. times; the prefix 'minster' alluding to a priory formerly established here. In the reign of Richard III, Francis, Lord Lovell was a keen supporter of the King and held high office under him. This is commemorated by the well-known rhyme:

The catte, the ratte and Lovell our dogge
Rulyth all England under the Hogge.

The cat refers to Catesby, the rat to Ratcliffe, while the dog and hog are derived from the Lovell crest, which was a dog, and a wild boar, which was that of the King. After the King's defeat and death at Bosworth, Lovell supported Perkin Warbeck's insurrection against his successor, Henry VII, but he and his forces were defeated at the battle of Stoke in 1487. Lovell was last seen swimming his horse across the Trent after the battle, and rumour had it that he retired to Minster Lovell, where he lay close in a secret chamber, his whereabouts known only to one faithful servant. As he was never known to have escaped and was never heard of again, the affair remained a mystery until some alterations were made to the house in 1708. In this year a secret chamber was accidentally discovered, in which was the skeleton of a man, seated at a table, upon which were a pen, paper and a book. Upon the admission of air, all immediately crumbled to dust. It is generally considered that the skeleton was that of Lord Lovell and that by some mischance he became immured in the chamber, perhaps owing to the sudden death of the servant who alone knew where he was hiding.

Returning to the main road, another 2 m. brings the traveller to a turn r. for Asthall, by which route Burford may be reached by way of the valley. Just before reaching the turning to Asthall, the main road descends into a hollow, known as Worsham Bottom. Here, in the coaching days, an evil spirit known as 'Black Stocking' was said to lurk. This little demon, clad in dark velvet and hose, so it was reputed, would suddenly leap out into the road and grab at the horses' reins, to the terror of both the beasts and their drivers. **Asthall** is a delightful village, with charming stone cottages, manor-house and church, beautifully situated by the swift, clear waters of the Windrush. The church is chiefly Trans. with a chancel arch ornamented with beakheads. In the N. transept is a handsome Dec. tomb with the effigy of a lady under a canopy. There is also an old stone altar, with a piscina attached to it.

From Asthall, continue along the road with the Windrush on the r. and in ½ m. turn r. and cross the river to **Swinbrook.** The church is reached by a turn to l. on entering village. It is noteworthy for the number of memorials it contains to the Fettiplaces, a family who once lived in a now vanished mansion house and who died out in 1805. They were a family of considerable substance and importance, owning a great deal of land in many counties, and in the 15th cent. they became connected by marriage with the Portuguese royal family. Their memorials, among which may be mentioned six effigies lying on shelves, chiefly date from the 16th and 17th cents.; there are also two brasses dated 1470 and 1510 respectively. The church itself is chiefly late Trans. and contains some old oak stalls with 'miserere' seats which were formerly in Burford church.

To return to Burford (2½ m.) re-cross river and turn r. This road passes the little church of **Widford,** which contains a Roman pavement found on the site and some remains of wall-paintings. A pretty run of 2 m. along the valley leads back to Burford, which is entered by Witney Street.

Route 15. Burford to Lechlade via Bampton, returning via Langford, 29 m.

This route takes the traveller away from the Cotswold fringe, upon which Burford lies, into the very peaceful and pleasant flat country of the Upper Thames. From the top of the High Street, turn l. into the Oxford road and in 2 m. turn r. for **Brize Norton,** where the level country is reached. Here is a church, chiefly E.E. with several interesting features, notably some grotesque heads on the tower and a Norm. S. doorway with tympanum. There is also a Trans. font, but the most curious feature of the church is a tomb in the N. aisle. This commemorates John Daubigny (1340) and is a recumbent effigy, only the head and legs of which are exposed, between them being a flat slab, upon which is carved a helmet and shield. 3 m. beyond is the pleasant little stone-built town of **Bampton**, with a magnificent church, described under R. 4. Turn r. in Bampton into road A 4095 and follow this for 2 m. to Clanfield.

††Between the two is a turn r. for **Black Bourton**, which has a church, containing wall-paintings of great interest, for a description of which see R. 4.††

Clanfield is a village, typical of the many charming villages of the Upper Thames country, with many good stone buildings of 16th- and 17th-cent. date, notably the fine three-gabled *Plough Inn*, which stands opposite the traveller entering the village by this route. (To reach the church, turn r. at War Memorial and l. again up a lane behind the *Plough*. On the Dec. tower is a most curious figure of St Stephen, the Patron Saint. The nave is Trans. and the chancel E.E.)

For Kelmscott, turn l. at the War Memorial and beyond the village, turn r. into road B 4449, keeping l. shortly afterwards at fork. Turn l. at the next cross-roads and in ½ m. **Kelmscott** is reached. The beautiful little church, with its original E.E. bellcote, is on the r. on entering the village. The building is approached by an avenue of limes and was originally Trans., before the addition of the transepts and the rebuilding of the chancel in the E.E. style. Note the good stone head corbels supporting roof and others in the sunk quatrefoil panels in the nave, also colour decoration upon the arches, remains of much wall-painting in the N. transept and St George and the dragon in the old glass of the E. window. In the E. part of the churchyard is the grave of William Morris, the well-known Victorian poet, who died in 1896. He came to reside at the Manor in 1871 and of this quiet village of the 'upperest Thames', as he called it, he has left a charmingly vivid description in his 'News from Nowhere'.

††To reach his house, take road on l. just before the church is reached and pass through the delightful old village with its old cross-base to the Manor House, which lies at the end of the street on the r. It is a beautiful old Tudor house, but is a private residence.††

Beyond Kelmscott, the border of Gloucestershire is crossed in order to reach Lechlade (3 m.). At the *Trout Inn*, turn r. into road A 417 and the town is quickly reached. **Lechlade** (*New Inn* and *Crown*, both No. 2), though strictly outside the scope of this book, is a pleasant old town and a good centre for the exploration of the uppermost reaches of the Thames which lie partly in Wilts on the farther bank. Here also some people begin the 127-m. journey down the river to Richmond. The church is a handsome Perp. building with a tall spire, which springs from a tower, upon which may be noted many grotesque heads. The interior contains a Perp. font and the Sanctuary roof is decorated with angels holding the Instruments of the Passion. Note also a good Royal Arms of George IV (1829).

Leave Lechlade by the Burford road and after passing the railway station and crossing the Leach back into Oxfordshire, turn r. into the village of **Little Faringdon**, which has a small Trans. church. Turn l. by this church for **Langford** (1½ m.). In the centre of the village, by the cross, turn r. for the church, which is of supreme interest, since the earliest part of it, the tower arches, are of very early Norm. and even possibly of Sax. date. Of this period is also the now headless Rood on the E. side of the S. porch, which should be compared with the more famous and complete example at Romsey Abbey, in Hampshire. This porch also contains another most interesting carving of the Crucifixion, the remarkable feature of which is that the attendant figures of Mary and S John are shown with eyes averted from the Cross. Other noteworthy features of this interesting church are a Jacobean pulpit, a Perp. font and in the chancel a curious aumbry with six compartments. At the W. end is a good modern stained-glass window depicting St Francis and the birds.

Turn round at the church and go back to the cross in the centre of the village, where turn r. at the *Crown Inn* for **Broadwell** (1 m.). Here there is another extremely beautiful and interesting church, whose lofty E.E. spire rises nobly above the old stone cottages. It is entered by a late Norm. S. doorway enriched with zig-zag and dog-tooth ornamentation. The E. arch of the tower is also of this style, the remainder of the building being E.E., the archway to the N. transept displaying typical 'stiff-stalk' foliage. Note the Royal Arms of James I in the N. aisle of chancel. These are dated 1622, though above them has been added in later times 'G.R. IV, 1829'.

The villages of Broadwell and Kencott form one whole and at the far end of the latter turn l. for the curiously-named villages of Filkins and Broughton Poggs.

††Just after turning l. another turn l. at a tree upon an island leads to **Kencott** church, which, though small, has an interesting Norm. S. doorway with tympanum, upon which is carved a figure of Sagittarius shooting an arrow into a beast's throat. There is also a Jacobean pulpit.†† At Filkins, turn r. on entering village and immediately r. again by the *Lamb Inn* for Burford.

††For **Broughton Poggs,** keep straight ahead at Filkins for short distance as far as bridge. The church is in the grounds of the Hall, the gates of which adjoin the bridge. It lies concealed behind farm buildings in the S.E. corner of the grounds and is interesting because of its early origin, either very early Norm. or late Sax.††

Burford is reached in 4½ m. from Filkins, the road passing at first through pretty wooded country and rising later over bare uplands of typical Cotswold scenery.

IV. SOUTH-WEST BERKSHIRE

NEWBURY
THE LAMBOURN VALLEY
THE HAMPSHIRE BORDER
SILCHESTER
READING

IV. SOUTH-WEST BERKSHIRE

NEWBURY

Newbury (*Chequers*, T.H., No. 1; *Bacon Arms*, *Queen's*, both No. 2) is an interesting old town and a good centre from which to explore the picturesque country in the S.W. corner of Berks, which comprises both heath and typical downland, besides some pretty valleys, such as those of the Lambourn and Enborne. Newbury was of importance in medieval times as a centre of the cloth trade and its most famous citizen was a clothier, John Smallwood, a name he afterwards altered for that of Wynchcombe. He was known universally as 'Jack o' Newbury' and led a body of townsmen to fight the Scots at Flodden in 1513. Newbury has figured prominently during two civil wars. In 1460, during the Wars of the Roses, it was held for the Yorkists, and, after being captured by the Lancastrians, all Yorkist troops and sympathisers were subjected to a bloody massacre. During the great Civil War, two battles were fought in the immediate neighbourhood. On Sept. 20th, 1643, Charles I attempted to disperse an army of London-trained bands under the command of the Earl of Essex. Most of the fighting took place to the S.W. of the town and, though not defeated, the Royalists suffered heavy losses, including Lord Falkland who was killed. His memorial stands at a cross-roads on the Andover road, about 1 m. out of the town. Just over a year later, on Oct. 27th, 1644, a second battle took place, between the Parliamentary forces holding Newbury and the King's forces, who were marching from the west country, but this, too, was indecisive. Most of the fighting took place in the neighbourhood of Shaw House and Donnington Castle, to the N. of the town (see below). During the persecution of Protestants by Mary, three martyrs gave their lives at Newbury for the cause of the Reformation, the most notable victim being Julius Palmer, Fellow of Magdalen and Master of Reading Grammar School. During the 18th cent. John Wesley preached here several times. The cloth trade having long deserted the town, Newbury's chief interest is now racing. During the Second World War St John's Church (by Butterfield) was destroyed in an air raid.

The church is a large handsome building in the Perp. style and was rebuilt by Jack o' Newbury, his monogram J.S. (Smallwood) being on a roof boss. His brass will be found under the tower. The work of reconstruction was actually finished by his son in 1532, which date will be found on a corbel over the tower arch. The richly-ornamented roof with symbols of the Passion upon the bosses should be noted, also the Jacobean pulpit dated 1607. A curious monument to Griffin Curteys (1587) with figures of himself, three wives and eleven children is outside the S. chancel wall. A pair of archways in the interesting 'Strawberry Hill Gothic' style of the 18th cent. gives access to the churchyard.

The Cloth Hall at the N.E. corner of the market place is an interesting Jacobean building, restored in 1902. The carved heads upon the ends of the brackets supporting the upper storey are noteworthy. It is now a museum (open from 10 a.m., Sun. excepted) and contains prehistoric implements and pottery from various cemeteries in the district, Roman pottery and coins from a site at Thatcham and armour and cannon-balls which were associated with the two Civil War battles. Outstanding amongst the exhibits are a mammoth tusk 6 ft. long, found in the town, and the skull of a *bos primigenius* (primeval ox) dating from the time when this country was a part of the continent. Adjoining the Cloth Hall on the E. is a picturesque old building with an open timber gallery known as the Granary. It is now converted into shops, but was formerly a warehouse adjoining the canal basin, now drained and formed into a bus station known as The Wharf.

St Bartholomew's Hospital, at the S. end of the town, was in existence before King John's time. He gave it a charter granting it the profits of an annual fair to be held on St Bartholomew's Day and the next day. Apart from the Perp. chapel, now a school, the buildings are of pleasant 17th-cent. brickwork, with some later additions.

Old Houses. There are various old houses in Newbury, notably some fine 17th-cent. brick examples in Northbrook Street, whose lower storeys have been mutilated by conversion into shops. The best piece of early 16th-cent. timber work is to be seen in a passage adjoining the *Castle Inn* on the E. side of Northbrook Street. This was Jack o' Newbury's house. The river Kennet, here canalised as part of the Kennet and Avon Canal, passes through the town and is crossed by the main street. At either end of the bridge are a pair of pavilions now incorporated into the adjoining shops.

The Neighbourhood of Newbury

Donnington is a village ½ m. to the N.W. along the Oxford road. Adjoining the bridge over the Lambourn are the picturesque red-brick buildings of the old Hospital, originally founded before 1393. Note the fine Royal Arms, incorporating the lilies of France, over the doorway.

Donnington Castle stands upon a wooded hill, N.W. of the village. This was a stronghold of the Abberbury family and was of great strategic importance during the Civil War. It was garrisoned for the King and was relieved by King Charles himself on his return from the west country in 1644, as a result of which occurred the second battle of Newbury, when the castle formed part of the Royalist defence line. Ten days later, Charles, who had retreated to his headquarters at Oxford after the battle, made a sortie and withdrew all the guns and ammunition, which he had left at the castle, the Parliamentary forces in Newbury being completely unaware of his presence so near at hand. After this, the castle continued to hold out for another two years, until April, 1646, after Charles had surrendered to the Scots. It was then destroyed, except for the gatehouse, a lofty Perp. structure, which is still intact. The gateway is vaulted and above, on the tower, are many grotesque heads.

Shaw House stands on the N. bank of the Lambourn between Donnington and the road to Hermitage. To reach it, go down London road (r. at the clock-tower at the top of Northbrook Street). This street contains some good brick houses of the 17th and 18th cents. Note particularly the Dower House, on the l. There is also a modern R.C. church on the r. with a striking figure of Christ upon the roof. Take the Hermitage road, about ¼ m. along on the l. and this presently leads to a bridge over the Lambourn, just beyond which turn l. and follow the drive to the house (about 1 m. from the clock-tower). The very fine Elizabethan mansion is now a Council school and is not shown, but is well seen from the drive. It was built by Thomas Dolman, a prosperous Newbury clothier. It formed part of the Royalist defences at the second battle of Newbury when the fierce attack delivered upon it by the Parliamentary forces under the Earl of Newcastle was repulsed. Charles I stayed here the night before the battle and narrowly escaped death when dressing near a window on the morning of the battle, a bullet embedding itself in the wall near him. After the Restoration, Charles II, and later Queen Anne were entertained here. The house is of red brick with stone-mullioned windows and has a profusion of gables and massive chimneys.

The neighbourhood of Newbury is a good centre for walks or bicycle rides. **Snelsmore Common** to the N. of Donnington, on the road to Wantage, and **Greenham and Crookham Commons,** S.E. of the town on the road to Kingsclere, are all delightful spots with wide views and bus services running to them. Perhaps the most varied and beautiful country, however, within reach of Newbury, lies to the N.E. in the **Cold Ash** district. A good way of exploring this region is to take bus or train to **Hermitage,** where take the road, leaving the village by a small church, marked on signpost 'Frilsham, Bucklebury and Bradfield'. This leads under the railway and ascends for nearly ½ m. through a wood. Avoid the turning immediately r. by the railway, but take the second turn r., which leads through the heart of the wood. It soon cuts right through the great ramparts of the Iron Age camp of **Grimsbury Castle,** which, though much overgrown, are still quite perceptible. In the centre of the old camp stands a curious little castellated brick cottage with a peaked roof. The road then cuts through the other side of the ramparts and rejoins the Cold Ash road, which began at the Hermitage railway bridge. This now becomes a straight, level road through the pines to **Cold Ash,** a modern village on a ridge between the Pang and Kennet valleys. A fine view over both is obtained by continuing eastwards from Cold Ash along the road traversing the whole length of **Bucklebury Upper and Lower Commons,** which together extend for 3 m. as far as the hamlet of Chapel Row. From either this point or from **Cold Ash,** buses run to Newbury. The country lying over the Hampshire border to the S. around Burghclere and Highclere is also most attractive and accessible from Newbury, but is outside the scope of this book.

Route 16. Newbury to Wantage via E. Ilsley, returning down the Lambourn Valley, 36 m.

Leave Newbury by the Oxford road, forking r. into A 34 not long after leaving the Clock Tower. In 1 m. just beyond the *Castle Inn* at Donnington, fork l. into B 4494 for Wantage. In another m. the road ascends to the picturesque

Snelsmore Common, one of the many surrounding Newbury and, like the others, commanding some fine views of the Downs on the Hampshire border to the S. The road descends from the plateau by a steep hill and traverses somewhat lonely country for the next few miles, the villages lying on both sides, but off the road.

[These are as follows: **Chieveley** 1½ m. to the r. is a pretty village with an E.E. church; across the centre of the chancel is a timber Perp. arch, from which the Lenten veil is said to have been hung in pre-Reformation days. Note also the curious tomb of Mrs Lucy Fincher (1687). **Leckhampstead** to the l. is of no interest; **Brightwalton,** 1 m. to the l. has a modern church designed by Street, the well-known Victorian architect, retaining a good Norm. font from its predecessor.]

At **Lilley,** a roadside hamlet 8 m. from Newbury, keep l. at the *Fox Inn.* (¾ m. to the r. is **Catmore,** in a lonely situation among the Downs, with a small Norm. church with a Jacobean roof dated 1607.) 1 m. beyond Lilley is a turn r., for **Farnborough,** a pleasant village 700 ft. up on the Downs with a Norm. church containing a Perp. window with some old glass. In another 2 m. the road passes through a dark plantation of firs and emerges on to the main ridge of the Berks Downs and crosses the green track known as the Ridgeway. A short distance along this to the r. may be seen the memorial cross to Lord Wantage, V.C. From the ridge there is a magnificent and wide-spreading view, the White Horse Vale stretching out below, the hills around Oxford beyond it to the N., while to the N.E. the ridge is prolonged by the distant heights of the Chilterns, with the Wittenham Clumps on their twin hills in the middle distance. To the N.W. there is an almost illimitable prospect towards the Cotswolds and the region of the upper Thames. From the Ridgeway the Downs descend into the vale in three definite ridges, from the last of which a steep hill leads into the town of **Wantage** (see R. 5). Turn l. at the bottom and shortly (at the *Royal Oak*) r. into Newbury Street, which leads into the Market Place.

Leave the town by Newbury Street and turn r. at the *Royal Oak* into Port Way. At the end of the town, take the turn l. to Letcombe Regis. At the signpost to Letcombe Bassett, take turn r. [From this corner, the road labelled 'to the Downs' may be followed for 1 m. to the crest of the ridge, where there is a fine Iron Age encampment known as Letcombe Castle.] **Letcombe Regis** church stands in the centre of the village and has a Trans. tower with Perp. upper stage. The interior is chiefly Perp. and the E. window has some old glass, including a Resurrection and some shields. At the church, turn r. for **Letcombe Bassett,** 1 m. forward. Both the Letcombes are pretty villages with charming cottages and many trees, forming a contrast to their bare Downland surroundings. Letcombe Bassett is particularly attractive, as here there is a wooded ravine, whose steep banks overhang a stream, here formed into watercress beds.

The church is up a turn to l., by telephone box, and has a Norm. chancel. Upon the capitals of the N. doorway are carved the evangelistic symbols. There is also Norm. arabesque carving on the capitals of the chancel arch.

Follow the road beyond Letcombe Bassett for 1 m., to the l. of which is seen a deep valley running up into the Downs, known as the Punch Bowl. At the cross-roads the main Wantage–Lambourn road is joined; here turn l. and Lambourn is reached after 5 m. of beautiful downland scenery with but few farms and no villages. 1 m. beyond this cross-roads the summit of the ridge is gained at a point named Hackpen Hill, 772 ft. above sea level. (There is a more famous one of the same name near Marlborough in Wiltshire.) It is said that it was from this point that Jude the Obscure in Hardy's novel gazed towards the distant Christ-minster (Oxford). 2 m. beyond the Ridgeway are the Seven Barrows, which lie in a group to the r. of the road.

Lambourn (*Red Lion,* No. 3), the 'Marygreen' of Jude the Obscure, is a small town surrounded by many miles of chalk downs and is famous for the training of race-horses, strings of which are frequently encountered galloping over the springy turf of the Downs. The very handsome cruciform church with its central tower stands well in the centre of the little town and outside the E. entrance to the churchyard is an old cross. The nave arcades and tower are good Trans. work and the chancel dates from the Dec. period, while N. and S. of it are two rich Perp. chantry chapels. The upper stage of the tower is also Perp. The interior is of much interest, and especially curious is the Dec. arch leading into the S. transept, the moulding of which is ornamented with heads, running hounds, fish and flowers. On the floor nearby are two 14th-cent. brasses to members of the Estbury family and another to Roger Garrard and his wife (1631). The two chantry chapels to the N. and S. of the chancel are both rich Perp. The Essex Chapel (N.) contains the alabaster tomb with effigies of Sir Thomas and Margaret Essex (1558) and the Holy Trinity Chapel (S.) contains an altar-tomb with brass of John Estbury (1508).

From Lambourn the road back to Newbury threads the valley of the very charming Lambourn stream, passing through a series of picturesque thatch-roofed villages. The valley is pleasantly diversified with water-meadows alternating with beautiful woodland and, although the villages are so near each other, on both sides of the valley there are many miles of empty downland. **Eastbury** is the first village below Lambourn and here, as in some of the other villages in the valley, the cottages are approached by little bridges across the stream, which, like other chalk streams, has a fitful flow and sometimes dries up altogether. The old red-brick manor-house with its stone-mullioned windows is on the r. of the road and was formerly the home of the Fitzwarrens. Note also an old cross and, at the far end of the village on the l., set back from the road, an old octagonal dovecote, still in use. The church is by Street (1867).

Next comes **E. Garston,** which lies to the l. of the main road. Its church stands well, but has been much restored, though retaining its Jacobean pulpit. **Great Shefford,** 1 m. further on, has a church on the l. as the village is entered, possessing a round Trans. tower, a feature common in E. Anglia, owing to the prevalence of flint and the difficulty of obtaining good squared stone, but rare elsewhere, though curiously enough there are two in the Lambourn valley (see below; Welford). This particular example has an octagonal Perp. top storey. The chancel has some good E.E. lancets and in the churchyard is an old cross and a large yew.

E. Shefford is ¼ m. beyond Great Shefford. This was yet another seat of the powerful Fettiplace family (see Swinbrook, R. 14), but their house here has entirely disappeared. The church, now disused, contains some good monuments to them. To reach it, turn l. at signpost to E. Shefford House (key at Glebe Cottage at the corner) and, after crossing bridge, walk across field on r. The church is a small Norm. building with Perp. windows, and contains both an altar-tomb with effigies of Sir Thomas Fettiplace (c. 1450) and a canopied tomb of Purbeck marble with brasses to John and Dorothy Fettiplace (1524). 2 m. down the valley from Shefford is **Welford,** beautifully embowered in trees. The church and manor-house here lie across the bridge, to the r., the former standing in a churchyard containing some noble trees. This is the other example of a Norm. round tower in this locality, in this case crowned with a graceful E.E. belfry and spire. The church itself has been much restored, but retains a brass to John Westlake (1420), a kneeling effigy of Lady Parry (1585), and a tomb in the S. aisle, upon which is carved a floriated cross.

††1 m. S. of Welford is **Wickham,** whose church has a good Sax. tower. The remainder was rebuilt by Benjamin Ferrey (1849), a pupil of Pugin. Note very good external flintwork in E. Anglian manner and rich interior; supporting the N. aisle roof are some very curious elephants of papier-maché, from the Paris Exhibition of 1862.†† **Boxford** is the last village encountered before Newbury is reached. It lies off to the l. across the river and, like all its neighbours, is a very attractive place with many picturesque cottages. The church, much restored, has a brick and flint chequerwork tower dating from the 17th cent. and retains a particularly handsome Jacobean pulpit, retaining its sounding-board and dated 1618. ¾ m. to the N.E. is the prehistoric camp of Borough Hill; many Roman remains have also come to light in the Boxford district, including a hoard of 800 coins.

Newbury is 4 m. further on.

Route 17. Newbury to Inkpen Beacon and Combe, returning via Kintbury and the Kennet valley.

This is a route which includes some magnificent and very characteristic downland scenery, as well as some picturesque portions of the Kennet valley. Leave Newbury by Bartholomew Street, at the end of which turn r. into the Enborne road and after 2 m. is the village of **Enborne.** The church is on the l. just before reaching the village and is worth visiting, in spite of its modern-looking exterior. The font and nave are good Norm.; the chancel is E.E. and contains a wall-painting of the Annunciation. The church possesses a bell named 'Michael', which claims to be one of the oldest in all England and dates from 1260. 1 m. after leaving Enborne, turn r. at the *Craven Arms.* Not far beyond this is Hamstead Marshall, the church of which lies to the N. on the opposite side of the park and can be visited on the return journey to Newbury. After passing through Hamstead Marshall, keep along the Inkpen road, which at one

point turns r., crosses a stream and then turns l. Avoid the road leading to Kintbury village and keep along the Inkpen road to Kintbury Cross Ways, where turn l. at the modern red-brick church. The road descends and crosses a stream, shortly after which fork r. The road now crosses Inkpen Common with lovely views of the bold ridge of the downs on the l. Just beyond the *Crown Inn* turn l., after which the road descends into a pretty little valley, crosses a stream and passes the fine old red-brick Georgian mansion of Kirby Hall on the r. From this point the road begins to climb up to the downs, which present a fine escarpment on the r. Finally, the road turns sharply r. and the final steep ascent is made up the side of the great chalk bastion of **Walbury Hill,** at the top of which (975 ft.) is the extensive Iron Age fortification of Walbury Camp (8 m. from Newbury), the entrenchment of which encloses a considerable area. At this point is the highest chalk elevation, not only in Berks, but in all England. As may be imagined the views are very extensive in all directions; northwards on the horizon is Berkshire's other well-known chalk height, White Horse Hill, while below is the Kennet valley with Newbury visible to the E. To the S. the view extends into Hampshire for many miles across a series of chalk downs. To the W. is **Inkpen Beacon** (954 ft.). Between the Beacon and Walbury Hill, on the narrow connecting ridge, is the Combe Gibbet, one of the last remaining in the country. It is kept in repair by the terms of the lease by the tenants of a neighbouring farm, and is the third to stand on this spot, the second having been struck by lightning. Upon its predecessor a couple were hanged in 1676 for murdering the woman's two children by drowning them in a dewpond on the downs. Formerly the county boundary between Berks and Hants ran along this ridge, but in 1895 it was moved southwards in order to include **Combe** in the former county. It is worth while to descend into this remarkable hollow, open only at the S.

end, in which this extremely remote village lies. Towering over the small settlement are huge green shoulders of downland, which seem to be protecting the peaceful hamlet from the world that lies beyond. The little E.E. church still retains its allegiance to the Winchester diocese, the whole of the rest of Berks belonging to that of Oxford, and adjoining it on the N. is the manor-house, where it is said that Charles II used to visit Nell Gwyn, whose ghost is also said to haunt it. A charming little brick gazebo or summer house at the upper end of the garden may have witnessed his visits.

Returning to the ridge, keep the Gibbet on the l. and descend the steep road running down the N. face of the ridge to **Inkpen** village, whose beautiful though much restored church, with its cross-legged effigy, lies to the l. of the road. Fork l. in the village by phone box and in 1 m. turn r. for Templeton and Kintbury, the road traversing an avenue and passing the handsome gates of Inglewood House on the r. **Kintbury** is a large village in the Kennet valley, whose church has two very fine Norm. doorways and a monument with busts dating from 1767 and signed by Scheemakers, who was a well-known Flemish sculptor, who did much work in England at that time.

††From Kintbury, the extremely beautiful Norm. church of **Avington** may be visited. Turn l. by Kintbury Church and across the Kennet and Avon Canal, the level crossing and many small bridges across various branches of the Kennet. On reaching the Bath road, turn l. and in ¾ m. l. down a small lane leading apparently to some farm buildings. Here lies hidden a rare gem of Norm. architecture. Both the S. doorway and chancel arch are greatly enriched, the former with zig-zag and the latter with beak-head ornamentation. The building was to have been vaulted, but only the springers remain, as possibly the walls were found not to be sufficiently strong to support a heavy stone vault; two springers at the E. end rest upon grotesque heads. Notice the magnificent font carved with thirteen figures, two being together upon one panel.

Hungerford (*Bear*, 3 *Swans*, both No. 2) 2 m. to the W. along the Bath road, is an old town with some pleasant Georgian houses and a good early 19th-cent. Gothic church (1814–7). John of Gaunt granted the town privileges in the 14th cent. and the election of the Constable (or Mayor) on the second Tuesday after Easter is accompanied by much picturesque ceremonial and quaint customs. The return to Newbury may either be made straight along the Bath road, passing the quaint little castellated toll-house known as 'Halfway', since it lies midway between Hungerford and Newbury, or as below.††

From Kintbury, take the Marsh Benham road which runs parallel to the railway and river, which lie about ½ m. to the N. In 2 m. **Hamstead Marshall Park** is reached. The house was burnt down in 1718, but the imposing brick walls and gate-pillars are on the r. of the road. The estate was originally owned by William the Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, who acted as Regent during the minority of Henry III. Just beyond is the church, a very good example of Jacobean work as regards its brick tower and its beautiful internal fittings, especially the fine pulpit with sounding-board, dated 1622. Beyond the church the road descends into the valley and crosses the canal, river and railway at Marsh Benham amid delightful woodland scenery. In 1 m. the Bath road is reached, where turn r., and on the r. is Benham Park, which was laid out by 'Capability' Brown, the famous 18th-cent. landscape gardener. Newbury is reached in 3 m. through **Speen**, once the Roman station of Spinae and later well known as a stopping place for stage-coaches between London and Bath.

Route 18. Newbury to Silchester and Reading, returning via Bucklebury Common, 43 m.

Leave Newbury by Cheap Street and the Greenham road and at the top of the hill leading out of the town Greenham Common is reached. This is a breezy table-land with fine views to the S. over the Enborne valley, which here forms the Hampshire border, the bold heights of Burghclere Beacon and Sidown Hill, its wooded neighbour on the W., being prominent features. Unfortunately, the ugly buildings of a disused aerodrome have done much to spoil the Common itself. Just before the road descends into the valley turn l. for Brimpton. The road now traverses Crookham Common, a continuation of Greenham Common, and it was along this road that the Earl of Essex with his parliamentary forces retreated after the first battle of Newbury (1643), Prince Rupert harrying the rear with his cavalry. **Brimpton**, whose modern church has a prominent spire, occupies a high position on the ridge between the Kennet valley (N.) and that of the Enborne (S.). A short distance down the road to the l. from the cross-roads in the village is the Manor Farm, on the l. side of the road. This property once belonged to the Knights Hospitaller, and on the N. side is a moat. Here is also a Dec. chapel, now a farm building, which has a good Norm. N. doorway with a tympanum carved with a Maltese cross.

From Brimpton cross-roads, take the road to Aldermaston, keeping l. at the *Three Horse Shoes* on leaving village. After ½ m. keep r. at sign-post labelled 'Baughurst and Kingsclere' and after crossing a bridge, turn l. for **Aldermaston** (*Hind's Head*, P.R.H.A., No. 2). On entering village, turn r. up the charming old main street with its mellow brick cottages. At the top are the gates of Aldermaston Court, a large modern mansion on the site of a Jacobean house destroyed by fire in 1843. The old brick boundary wall of this period still remains. At the lodge gates, turn l., and a short distance along the road on the r. is the church, set most picturesquely on the edge of the park and embowered with stately old trees, many of them yews and cedars. At this point there is a good view to the N. over the Kennet valley. The church is of much interest and has a very good Norm. doorway ornamented with cable moulding, some realistic birds being carved upon the capitals. The tower above is Perp. and later windows have been inserted into the Norm. nave; the chancel is E.E. and the S. chapel, Dec. This contains the magnificent alabaster tomb of Sir John Forster (1526) and his wife. The feet of his effigy rest upon a hind and those of his wife upon a small lap-dog, who is represented as biting at her robe. Around the tomb are the figures of their twelve sons and eight daughters. The walls of the church are lavishly decorated with modern painting, but on the E. side of the S. window of the chapel is a tall figure of St Christopher, about 12 ft. in height, of late 13th-cent. date. In his hand he holds the Infant Christ, while at his feet is the figure of a mermaid. There is also a fine Elizabethan pulpit.

[¼ m. beyond Aldermaston church is a turn, l. for **Padworth.** This remote hamlet is reached by way of deep, wooded lanes in 1 m. The interesting little Norm. church adjoins Padworth House, on the l. of the road just after the road crosses a small stream and just before reaching the cross-roads by the village school. The church is a very rich example of late Norm. work of c. 1150, the N. and S. doorways and chancel arch being particularly noteworthy; there is also a vaulted apse. ½ m. beyond the cross-roads is the very fine Elizabethan mansion of Ufton Court.]

1½ m. from Aldermaston church, fork r. and almost at once, keep straight over a cross-roads. The scenery hereabouts is of the open, forest type with pine, heather and silver birches. 1 m. beyond the cross-roads is Silchester Common. Fork l. by some cottages, keeping a small brick chapel on the r. After passing a turn on l. to Mortimer, the road bends r. and cuts through a prehistoric earthen bank, shortly after which it bends l. and on the r. at this point is the ditch and N. wall of the deserted site of **Silchester** (14 m. from Newbury). This was the Roman city of *Calleva Atrebatum* and was one of the most important in Roman Britain. The now deserted site, consisting of open fields, is wholly in Hampshire, the N. walls forming the county boundary. The site has, however, been completely explored and the many remarkable finds transferred to the Reading Museum (see below). A few specimen finds have been arranged in a hut adjoining the Vicarage at Silchester Common. The road alongside the N. wall should be followed round as far as the farm on the site of the E. gate, an excellent view of the Roman wall being obtained. In many places it is still standing to a considerable height. The church, adjoining the farm, should not be missed. It is chiefly E.E. and contains a beautiful effigy of a lady of 14th-cent. date, a Perp. screen and a good Jacobean pulpit with sounding-board. The building stands in a remarkable position right upon the Roman wall. The much overgrown amphitheatre is situated at the junction of the two lanes just N. of the farm. The arena is clear, but the bank is covered with trees and bushes.

To reach Reading, return alongside the N. wall as far as the road for Mortimer, where turn r. Pass through Mortimer (West End) village and at the far end of it, turn r. Half a mile along the road is a fork l. from which point Reading can be reached in 6 m. through Burghfield. A more interesting route, however, and only 1 m. longer, is to keep straight on at this fork (sign-post, 'Mortimer Station') through **Mortimer,** a long village in the centre of which is a modern church. Nearly a mile beyond this, and just before reaching the station, is another church, up a short lane to the r. This church has a prominent spire and was rebuilt in 1866, when

a remarkable Sax. gravestone was discovered, which is now preserved in the chancel. The date of it is c. 994, so it is probably the oldest tomb in Berkshire. The Latin inscription, translated, runs as follows:

'†8th October. Aegelpardus, the son of Kypping, was placed in this position. Blessed is the man who prays for his soul. †Toki wrote me' (= this). Kypping held two manors here in the reign of Edward the Confessor, while Toki was a courtier of Canute. Near this tomb are brasses to Richard Trevet (1441) and his wife. In a window hidden behind the organ is preserved some old glass, which includes William of Wykeham and his motto 'Manners makyth man'.

The road from Mortimer to Reading joins the main Basingstoke-Reading road just N. of the hamlet of Three Mile Cross, the original 'Our Village' of Mary Russell Mitford. She lived between 1820 and 1851 at a house now marked with a tablet, adjoining the *Swan Inn*.

Reading (*Great Western*, *George*, *Ship*, all No. 1 and many others) is reached in another 3 m. Enter the town through the suburb of Whitley, where there is a street of shops. Where the trolley-buses fork l. at the *Pheasant Inn*, keep r. down hill and straight across at the lights into London Street, at the far end of which cross bridge over the Kennet and straight over the cross-roads at the lights into the Butter Market. Ahead is St Lawrence Church, immediately adjoining which is the *Museum* containing the Silchester collection.

This is one of the best of its kind in the country and illustrates with great lucidity the architecture, planning and all the many-sided activities, such as industry, of a flourishing Romano-British city. Various beautiful architectural fragments from the Basilica or Town Hall (Corinthian) and the gateway of the Forum or Market Place (Doric), together with some fine tesselated pavements serve to illustrate the kind of buildings that once stood in Silchester. Perhaps the most interesting one of all was the little Christian church, the only one of Roman date so far discovered in Britain, a full-size drawing of the pavement of which is preserved here, together with a plan. Mention should also be made of specimens of wall-painting and hypocaust tiles, used for heating purposes, as well as the many footmarks of animals made upon tiles while they were still newly baked. There is also a print of a baby's foot. There are examples of both window and bottle glass, and much beautiful pottery, besides a very great number of small objects.

History of the town. Reading, the county town of Berks, is a thriving modern manufacturing town with far-spreading suburbs. Once noted for its clothing industry, which flourished during the Middle Ages, it is now famous for beer, seeds and biscuits. In spite of its very modern appearance, it has had a long history. The Danes burnt the town in 1006. During the Middle Ages it was visited by many kings and queens and some parliaments were held here. In the time of the Civil War the town was occupied in turn by both sides. When the Plague was raging in London the Law Courts were transferred here. Later, during the Revolution of 1688, the forces of William of Orange routed some Irish mercenaries of James II and a battle was fought through the streets. Reading was thus one of the few places to see bloodshed during what was practically a bloodless revolution. The town's most famous citizen is Archbishop Laud, who was the son of a clothier and was born here in 1593. The town's earlier history, however, is chiefly that of the Abbey, one of the richest and most powerful in England, which was founded in 1121 by Henry I, who was later buried before the high altar. The Empress Matilda, who fought against Stephen during the next reign, was also buried here. The House was frequently honoured with royal visitors, including Henry VIII, who later on filched the treasures of the monks and hanged the Abbot, Hugh Faringdon, in front of his own

gateway, since he had opposed the Dissolution. The buildings were then converted into a palace, which was last occupied by Charles I, after which they became a quarry for the town.

The Abbey ruins are scanty and disappointing. They are situated in the beautiful Forbury gardens, the name being derived from 'faubourg' or outer court, the site of which the gardens occupy. The site is well marked out, but the beautiful Norm. faced stone has all been stolen, leaving only the shapeless rubble core standing. The chief remains are those of the transepts of the great church, the chapter house to the S. and the monks' dormitory still further S. On the site of the nave is a cross commemorating Henry I, whose grave was most barbarously destroyed at the Dissolution. The best remaining portion of the Abbey buildings is one of the gateways, with Norm. archway and Dec. upper storey. This is in Abbot's Walk, to the S. of the Forbury Gardens, and is still perfect, though much restored.

St Lawrence Church, which stands to the W. of the Abbey, has a Perp. tower and was damaged by a bomb during the second World War. It contains some 15th-cent. brasses, one of which, to W. Barton (1538), is a palimpsest, on the reverse side being the effigy of Sir John Popham (1463).

The Greyfriars' Church, at the opposite end of Friar Street, which leads westwards from St Lawrence Church, consists of the nave arcades, chancel arch and W. window of the church, built by the Greyfriars in 1285. It is Dec. work of the best kind, the W. window having reticulated (or net) tracery. After long desecration for secular purposes, the building once more became a church in 1863. The E. portion and the monastic buildings have entirely disappeared.

St Mary's Church, reached from Friar Street by West Street and St Mary's Butts, has a very handsome Perp. tower of chequerwork masonry. Much of the remainder is modern, but the S. arcade and S. aisle with its old timber roof came from the ruins of the Abbey in 1551.

Few old houses survive in Reading, but some remain in Castle Street of the 17th cent. In this street also is the handsome early 19th-cent. Corinthian portico of St Mary's, Castle Street. Further along, in Castle Hill, are many good Regency villas. London Street has a large number of Georgian houses and in London Road are some dignified late Georgian Terraces. The Royal Berks Hospital in this street is a fine classical building. The streets of the main shopping area are aggressively modern.

The return to Newbury may be made either direct along the Bath road (16 m.), or more pleasantly via Bucklebury Common, which is rather longer. Whichever route is taken, the Bath road must be followed to **Theale**, an important place in coaching-days, with an early 19th-cent. church, which is a reproduction of a portion of Salisbury Cathedral. At the far end of the village take a turn r. for Bradfield. This skirts Englefield Park on the r. as it climbs over a wooded ridge. Down the further side beyond a bridge over a small stream take turn l., which leads through the village of South End, beyond which is a fine quadruple avenue of oaks. At the end of this is the hamlet of Chapel Row, with the queerly named *Blade Bone Inn*. Here fork l., beyond which point the road traverses the beautiful upland of Bucklebury Common, with its clumps of firs. At the far end of this is a modern collection of cottages, known as Upper Bucklebury, where fork l. for Thatcham. As the road descends, magnificent views over the Kennet valley to the Burghclere Beacon, Sidown Hill and the long range of downs towards Inkpen Beacon come into view. At Thatcham (see R. 19) turn r. on to the Bath road and Newbury is reached in 4 m., during the course of which the traveller must try and shut his eyes to some dreary ribbon development.

Route 19. Newbury to Aldworth via the Blue Pool, returning via Hampstead Norris, 30 m.

Leave Newbury by turning r. at the clock-tower at the top of Northbrook Street into the London road. Follow this to Thatcham, passing much dreary ribbon development, but this is the only dull portion of the route, which lies throughout amongst some of the most charming scenery in Berks.

Thatcham is a large village, formerly a market-town, and in the Market Square is the base of the old cross. Just opposite is the *King's Head*, a famous coaching house on the Bath road, but now part of it, including the old porch, has been converted into a garage. The church is to the r. of the Market Place, down a side lane, and, though much restored, possesses a fine Norm. doorway with fish-tail moulding. At the far end of the village, opposite the *New Inn* (on r.), is an old Dec. chantry-chapel dating from 1334, but now used for secular purposes.

Here turn l. and ascend the hill to **Upper Bucklebury**. At the top is a wide view back towards the Kennet valley with the Hampshire downs beyond, the twin hills of Burghclere Beacon and its wooded neighbour Sidown Hill breaking their line. Where the road forks, keep l. and straight over the cross-roads just beyond and across Bucklebury Upper Common. From this point the road descends through a narrow wooded defile into the valley of the Pang, a tributary of the Thames. At the bottom turn r. and Bucklebury Church is shortly on the l. This has many points of interest; first the Perp. tower with its grotesque heads and curious carvings upon a buttress on the S. side. These include a Crucifixion, an inscription 'Jesu Merci', and the rebus or badge of the Winchcombes, a figure combing a wheel. The church is entered by a fine Norm. S. doorway of an elaborate kind and contains many objects of interest. Particular mention should be made of the Royal Arms, several heraldic hatchments, the Jacobean pulpit with sounding-board and pews of the same date in the nave and a fine old iron-bound chest. But even more curious is a painted glass window of a sundial on N. side of chancel, dated 1649, upon which has been painted a most realistic fly! There is also some very striking modern stained glass in the church by Sir Frank Brangwyn, R.A., the subject of the Crucifixion in the E. window being most noteworthy.

A turning just W. of the church leads to **Stanford Dingley;** this crosses the Pang brook, after which a turn r. should be taken and a pleasant road followed along the Pang valley. To reach Stanford Dingley church, turn r. at the next cross-roads. This is a charming little building with an old timber belfry, an E.E. nave and a brick 18th-cent. chancel. The interior contains interesting mural decoration of 13th-cent. date. To continue journey, turn back at church and take the next turn to the r. In order to reach the **Blue Pool,** the following directions should be carefully noted. After the right-handed turn mentioned above, the road bends. When it once more resumes a straight course, a farm gate should be entered on r. opposite a stile (l.) and a cart-track followed diagonally across a field to Timberhead Farm, a modern black and white house by the Pang. Here permission will readily be granted to see the pool, which lies among the watercress beds across the bridge from the farm and through a gate on the r. This most beautiful and remarkable natural phenomenon is caused by springs, which can be seen bubbling up through the sand in the bottom of the pool, and, owing to the action of light shining through the crystal-clear water on to the white sand, parts of the pool are of a surpassingly blue colour reminiscent of the famous Blue Grotto at Capri in Italy. The water is so clear that fish can be seen swimming among the rich vegetation growing in the pool.

Resuming the journey, turn l. at the next cross-roads; the buildings of Bradfield College, the well-known public school, are seen not far away on the r. at this point. From here

onwards to Ashampstead the road is a crescendo of loveliness, with luxuriant beechwoods on every side all the way. From Bradfield cross-roads the road first ascends, keeping Greathouse Wood on the l. It then descends into a little valley, where take l. fork at Bottomhouse Farm. A wooded valley is now traversed to Ashampstead Common, actually an area of thick woodland, where take the r. fork. 1 m. beyond this take the l. fork at the sign post **'Ashampstead village'**, which leads in ¾ m. to the village itself. The church is noteworthy for the discovery of some very lovely 13th-cent. wall-paintings, which were cleaned and restored by Prof. Tristram, F.S.A., in 1935. They are on the N. wall of the nave and (from l. to r.) are the Annunciation, Salutation (the figures of the Virgin Mary and Elizabeth being particularly beautiful), the Nativity (the Christ Child seen lying in a manger, above which appear an ox and ass) and the appearance of the Angel to the shepherds. Above the chancel arch is a Crucifixion and high above this again, but difficult to discern from below, is a Christ in Majesty.

Turn round at church and go back for a short way to a signpost 'Aldworth', where turn l. down steep lane and l. again at the bottom. In 1½ m. fork r. at the *Four Points Inn* and shortly enter **Aldworth** village, keeping l. at the triangular green, upon which is a clump of trees. This is a picturesque village with thatched cottages and a church of supreme interest, in spite of its humble exterior. It lies just beyond the green and in the churchyard is a gigantic though now much decayed old yew, which must be one of the most ancient trees in the country. The church was considered remarkable enough to receive a visit from Queen Elizabeth when she was making one of her progresses through this district. The great interest of the church is the very fine series of eight tombs with effigies. Unfortunately these are all much mutilated, but six of them lie under extremely beautiful Dec. canopies, dating from c. 1347. They are all said to represent various members of the de la Beche family, who lived at a now vanished castle on the site of Beche Farm.

††From Aldworth this route can be linked with R. 20 at **Streatley,** 2 m. to the N. This road traverses some noble downland scenery as it runs along a ridge with steep valleys on either side to the top of Streatley Hill, the E. termination of the Berks Downs, overlooking the famous Goring Gap, where the Thames cuts its way through between them and the Chilterns. The view is magnificent in all directions.††

To continue journey back from Aldworth to Newbury (10 m.), turn back at church and fork r. at the *Four Points Inn* along road B 4009. Along this road are good distant views (ahead) of the two prominent Hampshire hills, Burghclere Beacon and Sidown Hill. In 4 m. is **Hampstead Norris,** where we once again reach the Pang valley. This is a pleasant village and has a good E.E. church with two Norm. doorways. Inside there is a fine 17th-cent. timber roof, a mutilated wall-painting of the Virgin and Child and a spirited carving, on a stone coffin lid, of a mounted knight.

Newbury, 6 m. by the direct road via Hermitage, is reached by turning l. just beyond the church. This road passes through pleasing country, but with no remarkable feature.

A detour of 4 m. would include **Yattendon,** as charming a village as can be found anywhere. To reach this, turn round at church and return to the fork at end of village, where turn r. down the Pang valley. In 1 m. turn l. at cross-roads by a clump of limes and Yattendon is ¾ m. distant. In the centre of the village is a picturesque square with an old elm in the middle; the *Royal Oak* is a 17th-cent. brick house with good chimneys. The church lies a little beyond the square and is Perp., with a fine timber roof, a good restored rood-screen and a Jacobean pulpit. To return to Newbury (7 m.) go back to the cross-roads and continue straight on through pleasant woodlands to Hermitage, where road B 4009 is joined.

V. THE CHILTERNS AND THE MIDDLE THAMES

HENLEY-ON-THAMES
GORING
COOKHAM
MAIDENHEAD

V. THE CHILTERNS AND THE MIDDLE THAMES

HENLEY-ON-THAMES

Henley-on-Thames (*Catherine Wheel*, Hart Street, *Red Lion*, by the Bridge, both No. 1; *Angel*, by the Bridge, *White Hart*, Hart Street, both No. 2; Youth Hostel at the Friends' Meeting House, 45 Northfield End), Mecca of rowing men and world-famous for its fashionable regatta, lies amid beautifully wooded scenery. Although the town itself is in Oxfordshire, Berkshire is just over the bridge, while Bucks lies less than a mile to the N. of the town. It is an excellent centre to explore the lovely wooded country of the Chilterns, as well as for walks along the banks of the Thames and steamer trips up and down it. The town itself has some old houses and the neighbourhood saw some fighting in the Civil War, when it was held for the Parliament. It was an important coaching-stage on the road from London to Oxford and it was when staying the night at the *Red Lion*, now rebuilt, that Shenstone wrote his famous lines on the window-pane:

> Who'er has travelled life's dull round,
> Where'er his stages may have been,
> May sigh to think he still has found
> The warmest welcome at an inn.

The regatta dates from 1839, when the Grand Challenge Cup for eight oars was won by Trinity College, Cambridge. This classic annual event now brings thousands into the town, and the long straight reach N. of the bridge where the racing takes place presents an exceedingly gay scene when it is at its height. The bridge itself is a graceful structure dating from 1786, when it took the place of one swept away in a flood. Over the central arch are keystones representing the Thames (a bearded river god) and Isis (a young girl), which were carved by Mrs Damer, a cousin of Horace Walpole. Both up and down stream there are beautiful views, but especially N. where, at the far end of the poplar-lined regatta reach, the small temple on its island is seen with a lovely background of Chiltern woodland. The church, whose tall Perp. tower is so prominent a feature in all views of Henley, has been a good deal restored, but it is a spacious, handsome building with Dec. arcades, and has a notable monument in the typical Elizabethan effigy of Lady Elizabeth Periam (1621). At the E. end is the medieval timbered Chantry House, now restored and used for church purposes.

The Neighbourhood of Henley

Various short excursions may be taken in the immediate neighbourhood of Henley. A short walk is to **Marsh Lock** (1 m. upstream by the towpath). Here the beautiful woodlands of Park Place overhang the river. Just beyond the lock the road crosses a small valley by a bridge of rough stonework, said to have come from the ruins of Reading Abbey. The grounds of Park Place were laid out by James 'Athenian' Stuart, 18th-cent. architect and landscape gardener, and contain features such as sham ruins as well as the stones of a prehistoric burial chamber brought here from Jersey. The walk may be prolonged to **Wargrave**, a pretty and very popular riverside village, whose church was burnt out in the suffragette agitation of pre-war 1914. It still retains, however, its 16th-cent. brick tower and a Norm. doorway. In the churchyard are buried Thomas Day (died 1789), author of *Sandford and Merton*, and the world-famous Madame Tussaud (died 1850). The return journey can be made either by steamer, bus or train. Downstream, there is an equally attractive walk along the regatta reach, past Remenham village, the Temple Island and round the bend of the river to **Hambleden Lock** (2 m.). The towpath is on the Berkshire bank and beyond Temple Island is the beautiful estate of Greenlands on the Bucks bank. This house was besieged for 6 months during the Civil War by the Roundheads, who were then holding Henley, and the intervening estate of Fawley Court, opposite Remenham, was a frequent battlefield between them. In the 19th cent. W. H. Smith, son of the founder of the famous bookselling firm, acquired Greenlands. He was the original of Sir Joseph Porter, the First Lord of the Admiralty in Gilbert's *Patience*. He became a Cabinet Minister and Leader of the House of Commons, and after his death his widow was given the title of Viscountess Hambleden, after the neighbouring village.

Hambleden Lock, with its very charming mill and weir, is in Bucks and therefore beyond the compass of this book, but the reader is recommended to walk a further mile N. of the river to the very picturesque Chiltern village of **Hambleden,** with its delightful cottages, interesting church and small museum in connection with a Roman villa discovered last century. The return to Henley may be made by steamer or bus. Another short excursion by car or cycle is to **Greys Court.** Leave Henley by the Market Place, keeping l. of Town Hall up hill and 2 m. along the road to Rotherfield Peppard. The lodge and gate of Greys Court lie on the r. of road just beyond a turn r. to Bix. The public are allowed to use a right of way along the drive, going in at this gate and out of the park at the far end. From this a good view of the house and the old towers and walls are obtained (the house is a private residence, but those genuinely interested will be granted permission to climb the middle tower, opposite the house). John, second Lord de Grey, built a castle here in 1348, of which the E. curtain wall remains entire, with its two angle towers at either end and one in the middle. The S.W. angle tower of the castle also remains, but the rest of the walls and interior buildings have disappeared, the brick Elizabethan mansion built by the Knollys family now occupying the centre of the former castle. Between the house and the S.W. tower is the well-house, containing a well 200 ft. deep worked by a great wheel, formerly operated by a donkey, as at Carisbrooke Castle in the Isle of Wight, but no longer used. At one period of its history, Greys Court was held by the Lovell family, of Minster Lovell (see R. 14), but after the mysterious disappearance of Francis Lord Lovell in 1487, it was forfeited to the Crown. Later the Knollys family were granted the place by Henry VIII and one of them, Francis Knollys, was treasurer to Queen Elizabeth. During the Civil War the place became a Royalist stronghold, being finally 'slighted' by the Parliamentary forces, to use their own expression for this process. Since then the house, which has been altered a good deal since it was first built, has been occupied by the Stapleton family until recent times.

To visit the church, descend hill, keeping Greys Court on r., and when half-way up the further hill, turn l. where main road swings to r. and the church and village are a short distance beyond. The church is E.E., with font of that date and a very fine brass on chancel floor to Robert, fifth and last Lord Grey (1387). The magnificent monument in its own chapel to Francis Knollys (see above) was erected in 1605 by his son, Sir William, whose figure kneels in the upper part.

The return to Henley may be made by turning l., just beyond Greys Court, to Bix (1 m.) along a lane leading through beautiful Chiltern beechwoods. Henley is reached by the main Oxford road and along the Fair mile in 2 m.

Route 20. Henley-on-Thames, over the Chilterns, to Wallingford, returning along the Thames Valley, 36 m.

Leave Henley by the Oxford road, which, once clear of the town, threads the long straight avenue known as the Fair Mile. At the end of this the road begins to climb up a combe and at Bix, at the summit, the beginning of the Chiltern range is reached, 400 ft. above sea level. 2 m. further on, after passing through some noble beechwoods, is **Nettlebed,** 600 ft. up and the highest point hereabouts. This is a pleasant village with a common and was formerly a halting place for coaches on the Henley–Oxford road. The *White Hart* (No. 2) is an old inn that has maintained its former reputation. 2 m. on is Huntercombe, where the descent of the N. slope of the range begins and where there is a well-known golf-links.

[A fork l. leads in 1 m. to **Nuffield,** from which village Mr William Morris of motor-car fame took his title. Here there is a church with Norm. windows filled with Dec. tracery, a curious 14th-cent. attempt to improve upon the 12th-cent. style. The font has a Latin inscription in Lombardic characters, pointing out that only grace from Heaven can cleanse at baptism. There is also an early brass (c. 1360) with French inscription. A good section of Grim's Ditch (see introduction) can be traced from a point S.W. of the church for 4 m. westwards to Mongewell. 2 m. beyond Huntercombe turn r. for Ewelme, described under R. 7.]

From Huntercombe the road descends in 3 m. to Crowmarsh Gifford and Wallingford (see R. 7). At Crowmarsh turn l. (sign-post Goring). Wooded at first, the road later emerges into open country, with bare slopes of the Chiltern foothills (l.), and wide views over the Thames valley and Berks Downs. 1 m. S. of Crowmarsh on l. is the entrance to **Mongewell Park,** now a rehabilitation centre for the R.A.F. Just by the gates, good sections of *Grim's Ditch* can be seen on both sides of the road.

[2 m. from Crowmarsh is a turn r. for **N. Stoke,** with a church well worth seeing. Here lived the world-famous singer Clara Butt. She died in 1936 and lies in the churchyard with her two sons just W. of the church in a charming little enclosed garden. The church has an 18th-cent. brick tower, a good E.E. chancel and Dec. nave. Over the S. doorway (exterior) is a curious old sundial. The wall-paintings in the nave date from c. 1300 and illustrate among other subjects, scenes from the Passion of Christ (Betrayal, Trial, Scourging and Last Supper are very distinct). On the N. wall are the meeting of the Three Living Kings and the Three Dead Kings (a warning against vanity) and the Martyrdom of St Stephen. There is also a notable Jacobean pulpit with tester.

1½ m. to the S. of the turn to N. Stoke is another turn, for **S. Stoke.** This is a pleasant riverside village with a Dec. church and just to the N. of it is a curious old brick-gabled dovecote. From the cross-roads at S. Stoke a pleasant route may be taken across the Chilterns, back to Nettlebed (see R. 20a).]

5½ m. S. of Crowmarsh is the popular riverside resort of **Goring** (*Miller of Mansfield*, No. 2). Turn r. just before reaching station over railway, through village street to the river. Goring and its Berkshire neighbour **Streatley** (*Swan*) across the bridge share some of the most striking scenery on the long course of the Thames. Here the river leaves the Plain and cuts through a deep chalk gorge between the Chilterns (E.) and the Berkshire Downs (W.), which latter range terminates in the fine beech-crowned bluff of Streatley Hill. The twin villages are very popular resorts for those who like boating or walking, and are good centres for the exploration of both the Thames valley and the Berkshire Downs. Goring Church has a good Norm. tower with prominent stair turret and vaulted interior. The blind wall below the windows on S. side nave indicates the former position of a nunnery founded in c. 1150 and destroyed at the Dissolution in 1540. The Norm. font was restored to the church after many years of use as a farm trough. There are also five brasses.

Cross the bridge to **Streatley** (*Swan*, No. 2), with lovely view downstream and at top of village by the *Bull Hotel*, turn l. [Behind the inn is a steep climb to the top of Streatley Hill, from which there is a magnificent view, well worth the climb.] For the next 4 m., the road runs along a terrace cut in the steep slope of the valley with frequent views across the river to the beautiful Hart's Lock Wood. 2 m. S. of Streatley on the r. is **Basildon.** Just beyond the village on the r. is the Park, with impressive lodge gates designed by Papworth in the early 19th cent.; the famous 18th-cent. York architect, Carr, designed the mansion. Approaching **Pangbourne** is a fine straight reach of the river, alongside of which runs the road. Here the Nautical College practise rowing and sailing. Pangbourne village is another popular riverside resort with a church having an 18th-cent. brick tower and containing a Jacobean pulpit and a handsome monument to Sir John Davis (1625), with effigies of himself and his two wives.

[1 m. S. of Pangbourne is **Tidmarsh,** with an interesting church having a rich Norm. S. doorway and font, unique five-sided E.E. apse and some 13th-cent. wall-paintings depicting various saints. A short distance to the E. is **Sulham,** a pretty village of early 19th-cent. 'cottages ornées' with Gothic church to match.

From Pangbourne, cross toll-bridge to **Whitchurch,** a name found in several counties. This Oxfordshire example is a charming place with lovely wooded riverside scenery and some pretty cottages. The steep wooded Whitchurch Hill is now ascended and just at the top of the village on the l. is the entrance to a path leading through the lovely Hart's Lock Wood to Goring (3 m.). At the top of the hill fork r. and in 1 m. turn r. into the Goring–Reading road at Goring Heath cross-roads. (¾ m. further on is a good inn, the *King Charles Head*, No. 3).

[2 m. along this road towards Reading, a turn r. leads down to **Mapledurham,** a picturesque riverside village with lock, church and mill and a fine Elizabethan brick manor-house, for centuries the home of the Blount family. In the church, which has a timber arcade, is an early brass to Sir R. Bardolph (1390), and an altar-tomb to Sir Richard Blount and his wife.]

2 m. beyond the Mapledurham turn is **Caversham,** the large residential suburb of Reading on the opposite shore of the Thames (see R. 18). At the bottom of the hill, turn l. into road A 4155 for Henley. Shortly afterwards, turn l. again by a brick church into Prospect Street and at the *Prince of Wales Inn* (traffic lights) fork r. for Henley. Beyond the suburban development of Caversham, pleasant pastoral scenery is traversed, which continues to Henley.

[1 m. beyond Caversham, turn r. for **Sonning,** a noted riverside beauty-spot with an old brick bridge of eleven arches and a lock with lovely garden in a beautiful woodland setting. The much-restored church has an old Perp. 'chequer-work' tower and contains a large Jacobean monument to Thomas Rich (1667) and nine brasses. There are several good inns at Sonning.]

2 m. beyond the turn to Sonning is **Shiplake.** Opposite the *Plowden Arms,* take lane to r., to see church, in which Tennyson was married in 1850. It contains some very fine old 15th-cent. French stained glass, which was rescued from destruction at the abbey of St Omer at the time of the Revolution.

[Just before reaching Henley is a turn l., to **Harpsden,** which has a church containing Norm. work, a 14th-cent. effigy of a knight and five brasses.]

Route 20a. Henley-on-Thames and over the Chilterns to Wallingford, returning via Checkendon, 25 m.

To shorten the above route, proceed as in R. 20 to Crowmarsh and then 3½ m. S. down the Goring road to S. Stoke cross-roads, where turn l. In 1 m. the Icknield Way is crossed and beyond this the long ascent of Mile End Hill leads to Woodcote (500 ft. high). 1 m. beyond is **Checkendon,** with a very good Norm. church with an early painting of Christ and the Apostles on the roof of the apse. It contains some interesting brasses, notably one to John Rede, a very fine specimen under a canopy on S. side of Sanctuary, and another to Walter Beauchamp (1440) showing angels bearing his soul to Heaven.

Beyond Checkendon, take turn r. at letter-box fixed to signpost pointing to 'Highmoor and Henley'. Here is the village of **Stoke Row** and shortly on l. is the Maharajah's Well (386 ft. deep) under an Indian cupola. This was given by the Maharajah of Benares in 1864 as he had heard from an English friend of the difficulties of water-supply in these parts. Beyond village descend hill through the lovely beechwood, known as Bear Wood, and bear r. at bottom, where there is another letter-box fixed to a signpost. At the top of the next hill is the village of Highmore Cross, where the road joins that from Reading to Nettlebed, which is reached in 1½ m. through beautiful beechwoods. At about 1 m. beyond Highmore Cross, the road crosses a section of Grim's Ditch.

Route 21. Henley-on-Thames to Watlington, returning through the Chiltern beechwoods, 14 m.

Start as in R. 20 and at Nettlebed (5 m.) turn r. at cross-roads, along B 481. From here onwards the road gradually ascends the beechwoods, becoming less frequent until, between the hamlets of Park Corner and Cookley Green, the 700 ft. contour line is passed and the summit of the main Chiltern range reached. Cookley Green is a pleasant little place with an avenue of beeches bordering the road as it crosses the village green. (1 m. to the l. from here is **Swyncombe,** with good Norm. church in park adjoining Swyncombe House.) At Howe Hill corner, turn l. for **Watlington,** which is reached in 2 m. down the very steep hill through

Howe Wood. Not far beyond the bottom of the hill, the **Icknield Way**, which follows the foot of the Chiltern main range for many miles, is crossed. Turn r. on entering town and at the far end of the street is the Jacobean brick Town Hall (1664) standing upon arches. (Watlington was formerly a market town, but has now declined in importance. See also R. 8.) At the Town Hall, turn r. and after once more crossing the Icknield Way comes the ascent of Watlington Hill, a bare chalk bluff jutting out from the line of the main Chiltern range. This most beautiful piece of country is now National Trust property and from the summit, 700 ft. up, are wide-spreading views, N.E. towards the hills of Bucks, N.W. towards Shotover Hill, above Oxford, and S.W. across the White Horse Vale to the long line of the Berks Downs, with the two Wittenham Clumps (see R. 7) prominent in the middle distance. Just beyond the top of the hill is the charmingly named hamlet of Christmas Common. Fork l. at letter-box and 1¼ m. further on is another small hamlet named Northend. Here we are in the very heart of the Chiltern country, the whole district consisting of a ramification of deeply wooded ravine-like valleys, interspersed with breezy commons and bold chalk ridges.

††From Northend there is a beautiful drive which may be taken to the Bucks village of **Turville** (2 m.), which is reached down a lane running between steep banks, which are overhung by the huge gnarled roots of old beeches. Turville and **Fingest**, 1 m. beyond, both have interesting old churches, and the return to Henley may be made through the delightful village of Hambledon. This is also grand walking country, but the reader is referred to the companion volume to Bucks for information concerning this beautiful region.††

At Northend, turn r. and 1 m. beyond at Turville Heath, again turn r. down a fairly steep descent into the lovely wooded Stonor valley, a very typical example of the many

that penetrate this beautiful range. On the l. as one descends is Stonor Park, which contains a brick-built Tudor mansion where Edmund Campion, the Jesuit martyr (see Lyford, R. 5), lay concealed during the last year of his life and where he set up a secret printing-press. In the bottom of the valley is the pretty village of Stonor, where there is a comfortable inn (the *Stonor Arms*, No. 2). From this point Henley is reached in 4 m. by way of Middle Assendon and the Fair mile.

Route 22. Henley to Maidenhead down the Thames Valley, returning via Maidenhead Thicket, 24 m.

Cross the bridge and at once the road climbs steeply up an embankment and through a deep tree-lined cutting through the chalk, a great engineering scheme carried out for the benefit of the stage-coaches. At the top is the small roadside village of Remenham Hill. The road now descends and after 4 m. is a turn l. to **Hurley**, just beyond the *East Arms Hotel* (No. 1). This is an extremely picturesque and interesting riverside village and should not be missed. A short way down the village street is the old *Bell* (No. 1) a gabled and timbered inn of 15th-cent. date. At the far end is the church, much of which is of pre-Conquest date and the most complete building of its period remaining in Berks. It originally belonged to a Benedictine monastery founded here in 1086 by Geoffrey de Mandeville. The monks enlarged the church to the W. of the S. doorway and the beautiful Norm. W. doorway is their work. Against the N. wall of the Sanctuary are two kneeling effigies of Elizabethan date to members of the Lovelace family. On the N. side of the church is the cloister-court of the monastery, and opposite the church is the refectory or dining hall, with Dec. windows, now occupied as a private residence, known as Lady Place. Two large barns and a circular dovecote, formerly part of the monastic buildings, lie to the W. Between them and the church is the path to the lock and river, which is of particular loveliness at this point.

Continuing along the main road from the *East Arms*, the road runs along a terrace, with high wooded hills to the r. and a very fine view across the Thames valley to the l. 2 m. on is **Bisham,** a village with some pretty cottages, whose main street winds dangerously round in a serpentine manner. Bisham Abbey is now the training college belonging to the Central Council Recreation Centre, but was originally founded as a preceptory of Knights Templar in the reign of Stephen. In 1337 a priory of Austin canons was founded here and this came to an end at the Dissolution in 1536. The priory church, containing the body of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, 'the Kingmaker', buried here after the Battle of Barnet in 1471, has been utterly destroyed. The present house incorporates the beautiful Dec. porch and great hall, a noble apartment belonging to the former priory. A good view of the buildings is obtainable from the towpath of the Thames, by the side of which they are situated. ††The buildings are private, but permission to view will be granted to those genuinely interested.†† The church, also on the river bank, was much rebuilt in Victorian times, except for the Norm. tower and the Hoby Chapel. This part contains some magnificent tombs of members of the Hoby family, who obtained the estate from Anne of Cleves, divorced fourth wife of Henry VIII, who had given it to her after the Dissolution. Most magnificent of all is that of Lady Hoby, who died in 1609. She is shown kneeling under a canopy with a dead child in front of her, the figures of three daughters who predeceased her behind her and, outside the canopy at either end, those of her children who survived her. Her ghost is said to haunt Bisham Abbey, where it is supposed to walk perpetually washing its hands in a basin that moves before it. She is said to have beaten her small son so severely for making blots in his copy-book that he died as a result. A curious confirmation of this story came to light in 1840 by

the finding of some blotted copy-books of 16th-cent. date at the Abbey. Another tomb in the Hoby Chapel is to Lady Hoby's cousin, Margaret Hoby (1605), and takes the curious form of a pyramid with swans on either side. Much heraldry of the Hoby family may be studied in the Tudor glass in the E. window of the chapel.

††At the far end of Bisham is **Great Marlow,** across the suspension bridge on the Bucks shore and therefore beyond the compass of this book. It is a good place to stay at and has several hotels and tea-shops (*Compleat Angler*, No. 1). The church adjoining the bridge dates only from 1834, but contains two objects of unusual interest. One is a monument under the tower to Sir Miles Hobart (1652), who was killed in a coach accident which is depicted in a bas-relief, and the other is a picture by Coventry of a black and white spotted boy, who was exhibited in the once famous Richardson's Show, referred to by Gilbert in *Patience*. He is buried in the churchyard where his tombstone has a long inscription. Shelley lived for a year at Marlow (1816–7) at a house in West Street, marked by a tablet, and wrote *The Revolt of Islam* in a boat upon the river. To shorten this route, if desired, the return to Henley can be made in 7 m. by way of the pretty Bucks villages of Medmenham and Hambleden Mill.††

To continue, if not visiting Marlow, turn r. just before the bridge is reached and in a short distance begins the steep climb up through the very beautiful Quarry Woods, which descend precipitously to the river below and afford extensive views over the flat Bucks country towards Bourne End. Just over the summit, turn l. and at once r. at Tugwood Common, a small open space belonging to the National Trust. The road then traverses the pretty village of Cookham Dean and in 3 m. from Marlow reaches **Cookham.** This well-known riverside village is built round a common, sometimes flooded, across which a bridge runs, which is used only during floods. It has numerous picturesque cottages and inns (*Bel and the Dragon*, with interesting sign depicting the story in the Apocrypha, *White Hart* and *King's Arms*, all No. 2). Near the bridge leading over to Bourne End is the church, a large building, originally Norm. and E.E. with Perp. chancel and tower. Behind the organ is a bas-relief by Flaxman depicting the sudden death of Isaac Pocock in a boat on the Thames in 1810. On the N. of the Sanctuary is an altar-tomb with marble canopy to Robert Pecke and his wife with their brasses and a symbol of the Holy Trinity. He was 'sumtyme Master Clerke of the Sypcery with Kinge Harri the Syxte' and died in 1510.

At Cookham is the largest island on the Thames, named Formosa, and from here to Maidenhead (3 m.) is a very beautiful stretch of the river with the magnificent woods of Cliveden, overhanging the Bucks shore. The Berks bank, being flat meadow-land, gives a fine view of this all the way on the l. Just short of Maidenhead is **Boulter's Lock**, one of the most popular on the river and set amid lovely silvan scenery. At **Maidenhead** (*Bear*, *Crown*, both No. 2, also Y.H.), turn r. by the bridge on to the London–Bath road, which partially by-passes the town, which is quite without interest, except for its bridges. That carrying the road is a fine 18th-cent. structure dating from 1772 and designed by Sir Robert Taylor. From it, looking downstream, can be seen the red-brick bridge carrying what was the main Great Western Railway line. This daring structure, designed by the great engineer Brunel, has two very wide arches of a span of 128 ft. with a rise of only 24 ft., which are said to be the widest and at the same time the flattest brick arches ever to be constructed. That they still carry the loads, enormously increased, compared with those of 1837, when the bridge was built, is a tribute to the designer.

1 m. beyond Maidenhead, turn r. across the common known as Maidenhead Thicket, formerly a favourite resort of highwaymen in the coaching days, and Henley is reached in 9 m. by way of Hurley and Remenham Hill.

Route 23. Chiltern Walks

A. – Nettlebed to Russell's Water, Pishill, and back, 7 m., a short hilly round mainly by lane and footpath.

Nettlebed, though on a main road, has preserved its village character remarkably well, and is a first-class centre for walks in the loveliest part of the Chilterns, with good accommodation (*Bull*, *White Hart*, both No. 2), and convenient bus connection with Henley and Wallingford.

Go out from Nettlebed by the N. road towards Watlington, but soon bear right on the track across common land which descends a valley to Westwood Manor farm. This stands at the head of the lonely winding vale which, lower down, becomes Bix Bottom. Now, however, climb up the steep bank on the farther (N.E.) side and at the top you are suddenly on **Russell's Water** Common, high-lying (544 ft.) and breezy, with a pleasant alehouse and a good view N.E. over Greenfield Woods. Follow the lane (l.) along the common for about ½ m. to the hamlet, then take the track nearly opposite Russell's Water church to the Watlington–Stonor road in Pishill Bottom. Beyond this road is the very large Greenfield Wood, temptingly open but virtually trackless; but you should descend (r.) to Pishill (*Crown*, No. 2), a tiny village with a good inn. Turn sharply uphill past the little church and through hanging woods to **Maidensgrove**, which has great claims to being the most charming of Chiltern hamlets, as it certainly is one of the loneliest. It stands at the E. end of Russell's Water Common, but the best return to Nettlebed is due S. through Maidensgrove Scrubs, across the upper end of Bix Bottom and so back to Nettlebed by the cart-road past Soundess Farm, through lovely mixed woods nearly all the way.

B. – Nettlebed to Middle Assendon, Fawley (Bucks), and Stonor, 8 m., easily combined with the previous route.

From Nettlebed get into Bix Bottom by the quickest route, N.E. or E. across the common and downhill through woods; then follow the track down the valley to the right, with new and delightful views of downland and woodland developing at every turn. The ruin of the old parish church of Bix in the valley is disappointing, and its dilapidation is being hastened by ivy, but lower down are the satisfying buildings of Little Bix Bottom farm. The right-hand road here climbs over a rise to the Henley–Nettlebed road at Bix; but still better is the other road which continues down the winding bottom to **Middle Assendon**, a delightful group: farmstead, *Rainbow Inn* (No. 3), cottages, and sawmill. If you are to keep strictly in Oxon you must turn l. here along the road for Stonor; but it is permissible to make a short detour into Bucks N.E. up Fawley Bottom and so to the top of the steep hill overlooking Stonor from the E. **Fawley** church and village are on a higher road further E. In the churchyard are two huge family mausoleums, of the 18th-cent. occupiers of Fawley Court and of their successors. From Cockslease farm take the very steep track on the l. which skirts the edge of Stonor Park and drops into **Stonor** village (*Stonor Arms*, No. 2), with its pleasant rows of typical Chiltern houses. Stonor Park is ideally park-like with its combination of open spaces and varied trees. The mansion is not very well seen from the road. The road straight on leads either to Pishill, or else finally into Bucks (at Turville), and your return may be made either by footpath or by the almost equally pleasant lane, nearly parallel, to the hill-top woods of Maidensgrove. Thence back to Nettlebed either through the Scrubs (so much more attractive than their name) or by Russell's Water Common.

C. – Nettlebed to Ewelme, a round of 12 m., through lovely country.

This time set out from Nettlebed (R. 21) by the N. road (B 481), which leads eventually to Watlington. It is a fine breezy road and climbs gradually past the hamlet of Park Corner. Follow it for 2½ m. to **Cookley Green**, where the trim little three-cornered green is lined with trees – trees indeed are a great feature of this walk. Now turn W. along the by-road which descends steeply to Ewelme, and as soon as you enter the woods take the footpath l. for **Swyncombe** church, just beyond which is Swyncombe House. The small flint apse-ended church has altered little in plan since it was built. Long-and-short masonry reveals a Saxon origin; the doorways are Norm. and the deeply-splayed window-openings are also typically Norm., though later windows have been inserted. Font and aumbry are worth a glance. If you are in a hurry to get to Ewelme there is a path which takes you through the magnificent woods beyond the house and joins up with our return route. But if you are for a splendid view, go back to the road, and take the track opposite, which dips across a steep little bottom and brings you into the woods at the root of Swyncombe Down. Make your own way along the crest of the down to the clump of trees at its extremity, where it runs out like a cape into the plain. The turf is not what it once was: A.F.V.'s followed by a surely unwise ploughing have broken up the old surface; but the view is superb. The Sinodun Hills, as always from the S.W. Chilterns, stand out beyond the Thames valley; in front lies the rolling plain through which flows the Thame; and to your r. the Chiltern spurs stand out in succession, some wooded and some bare. Traces of an old fortification or boundary can be seen on the N. side of the down; and you can enjoy an exhilarating scramble down its face to the Icknield Way. Turn l.; the track soon joins the Swyncombe Hill road, and you take the first road r., along the N.E. edge of Cow Common, another plot of rough land which was ploughed during the war, this time with most fruitful results. And so into **Ewelme** (R. 7).

For the return, take the road S. across Rabbits' Hill (which well deserves its name) and follow the track along the S.W. edge of Cow Common, keeping straight on across the Icknield Way. The best route is not easy to find, but at the first fork keep l., and then bear r. up a long open valley. The country becomes lovelier and lonelier as you ascend, and at length you reach a wood of small saplings. Keep r. at its far side and you will strike a path leading in about a mile to Park Corner, on the road 1½ m. N. of Nettlebed.

D. – Watlington to Stonor, road or footpath, 12 m.

Climb out of Watlington (R. 8) by the road which crosses the Icknield Way and curves up the face of the Chilterns at Watlington Hill, with open juniper-studded downland on either hand. Here was a war-time post of the Royal Observer Corps, and the view justifies its selection for the purpose. It is a repetition, with pleasant variations, of that from Swyncombe Down, and you will find it hard to say which you prefer. A few yards to the r. of the road-junction at the top is the tiny hamlet of **Christmas Common,** with the *Fox and Hounds Inn.* The road passing the inn goes on to Cookley Green (R. 21), but you should follow the other road to the l. If you are cycling you must keep on this road (no great hardship) and trespass into Bucks, through North End and **Turville Heath** (with its splendid avenue, its common, and some dignified houses), to re-enter Oxfordshire just above Stonor. Walkers can take the pleasant short cut down the old Hollandridge road (now no better than a cart-track) which runs into B 480 half-way between Pishill and Stonor (refreshment at either, see R. 21).

The return may be made either by the Turville Heath road or by ascending B 480 to Howe Hill. The hill on the descent to Watlington by this road is steep enough; an interesting variant (cyclists, beware!) is to make the slight ascent N.W. to Britwell Hill (754 ft.), with another splendid view, and then plunge dead straight down the scarp to the Icknield Way and **Britwell Salome** (*Red Lion*, No. 3), 1½ m. by road from Watlington.

VI. WINDSOR CASTLE AND EAST BERKSHIRE

ASCOT
THE FOREST OF WINDSOR
BRAY

VI. WINDSOR CASTLE AND EAST BERKSHIRE

WINDSOR CASTLE

Windsor Castle is part of the fabric of England itself and the familiar view of it from the banks of the Thames is known throughout the world. To compress an adequate account of its history, architecture and contents into a work of this size is an almost impossible task, and the following account must serve as a mere sketch to indicate what is most important.

History. William the Conqueror, having been impressed with the defensive possibilities which he saw in the steep chalk bluff overhanging the Thames, built the first castle, where is now the Round Tower. Henry I built a palace in what is now the S. side of the Upper Ward, but not much remains of this. Henry III built another palace in the Lower Ward, but this later gave place to St George's Chapel. He also built the present curtain wall with its towers surrounding the Lower Ward. Edward III carried out extensive building operations and employed William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, to supervise the work. He erected yet another palace on the N. side of the Upper Ward, including St George's Hall, and demolished the palace of Henry III in the Lower Ward in order to build the first St George's Chapel, with the buildings comprising the College of St George for canons and poor knights, which surrounded it. Of these buildings the Dean's Cloister still remains, but the Chapel was later rebuilt by Edward IV, while the present magnificent building was the creation of Henry VII. In the reign of George IV the architect Wyatville was entrusted with the complete restoration of the castle, and its rather modern appearance is due to this fact. In the process, however, he managed to convert a rambling old medieval castle into a fitting royal residence.

The Conqueror visited Windsor only from time to time for hunting, but since the reign of Henry I it has been used continuously as a royal residence, and there have been many royal births, marriages and deaths within its walls. Edward III (Edward of Windsor) was born here in 1312, and in the keep on the site of the present Round Tower he founded, in 1348, the Order of the Garter, the sexcentenary of which was celebrated in 1948 when Princess Elizabeth was invested with it. One of the most brilliant royal marriages in St George's Chapel was that of Edward Prince of Wales (afterwards Edward VII) to Princess Alexandra of Denmark in 1863. Many monarchs have been buried in the chapel, and perhaps the strangest royal funeral that ever took place was that of Charles I, early in 1649. The snow-covered pall was brought into the chapel by a few loyal bearers and in the chapel, then desecrated by the Puritans, the body was silently committed to the grave, during which time Bishop Juxon's lips were seen to move as he softly murmured the words of the forbidden burial service.

Of state prisoners confined in the castle, the earliest recorded is Mowbray, Earl of Northumbria, who was imprisoned by William the Conqueror on a charge of murdering Malcolm, King of Scotland. Later, King John is said to have taken revenge upon William de Braose for his rebellion by starving his wife and eldest son to death in a dungeon. During the reign of Edward III there were two royal prisoners, King David of Scotland and King John of France, the former captured at the battle of Neville's Cross and the latter at Poitiers. The French King is said to have advised Edward III during his rebuilding of the castle. During the reign of Henry V Prince James of Scotland, afterwards James I, was confined in the Devil's Tower and from his prison observed a lady of great beauty who was accustomed to walk in the rose-garden below. This lady, who was the Lady Jane Beaufort, later became his wife and returned to Scotland with him as his queen. Henry VIII imprisoned the Earl of Surrey in the castle, and the Earl composed poetry to while away the time. He was ultimately beheaded, not long before the King's own death.

During the Civil War, the castle was held throughout by the Parliament, and here in 1647 Charles I was a prisoner for a short time.

Many famous personages have also been connected with the castle. Chaucer was Master of Works in 1390 in connection with the repair of St George's Chapel, and was lodged for a year in the Winchester Tower. Shakespeare wrote 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' at Elizabeth's command, and here he gave the first performance of it before the Queen in the Chapter Library. Harrison Ainsworth, the Victorian historical novelist, gives a vivid picture of the castle as it was in the reign of Henry VIII.

The Castle is entered by the Henry VIII Gateway, which gives access to the *Lower Ward.* This part of the Castle occupies all that part to the W. of the Round Tower. To the r. on entering it are the residences of the Military Knights. The occupants are retired officers, who are connected with the Order of the Garter. On the l. are the Salisbury and Garter towers; these are better seen from outside the Castle. Opposite the Henry VIII Gateway and at the W. end of St George's Chapel are the *Horseshoe Cloisters*, so called from their shape. These dwellings are occupied by Lay Clerks of St George's Chapel and are a picturesque range of buildings which were rebuilt in 1870 from the old materials. Beyond these is the *Curfew Tower*, which, though refaced during the 19th cent., still retains much old material. In the basement is a vaulted chamber, known as the Guard Room (adm. 6*d.*). The tower contains a peal of bells and a clock with a carillon, which plays the hymn tune 'St David' at intervals.

St George's Chapel (open weekdays, Fri. excepted, 11–5). This magnificent building dates from the reign of Edward IV (1461–83), whose badge, a crowned rose in sun's rays, is noticeable in various places. It is a grand example of the Perp. style, with its spacious windows, graceful flying buttresses and grotesque gargoyles. On the top of each buttress are the King's Beasts, holding vanes, which were renewed at the restoration of the chapel in 1921–30. Inside, the finest feature is the exquisite stone fan vaulting, which had to be taken down and rebuilt during the restoration. Originally provided by Henry VII (1485–1509), it is rich with heraldry, including the crowned portcullis and Tudor rose badges of its builder. The W. window contains all the original glass that now remains and includes several figures of kings. At the W. end of the nave on the N. side is the recumbent effigy of King George V (1910–36). In the N.W. corner is the Urswick Chapel, containing the monument to Princess Charlotte, daughter of George IV and wife of Leopold I, King of the Belgians (1817). On the opposite side of the chapel in the S.W. corner is the Beaufort Chapel containing the tombs of Charles, Somerset, Earl of Worcester (1526) and Henry, first Earl of Beaufort (1699). Close by is the monument to the Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria, designed by Gilbert Scott, the effigy by Boehm. To the N. of the steps to the choir is the Rutland Chapel, containing the altar tomb of Sir George Manners (1513) and his wife. Opposite this chapel on the S. side is the Braye Chapel, containing the monument to the Prince Imperial of France, son of Napoleon III, who was killed in the Zulu War in 1879. The Choir is entered through the modern organ screen. Here the effect of the stalls on either side, with their banners belonging to the Knights of the Garter, is very rich, and the general air of splendour is enhanced by the magnificent fan-vaulted roof, similar to that of the nave, constructed by Henry VIII. The dark oak stalls with their tabernacle canopies contain many brass plates recording their former occupants. The stalls of the Royal Family are beneath the organ gallery, that of the Sovereign having an oak canopy and blue curtains. Beneath the floor is a vault containing the remains of Henry VIII (1547), Jane Seymour, his third wife, and Charles I (1649). Among the many interesting objects in the choir should be noted the lectern, dated 1552, the recumbent effigies of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, the work of Sir Bertram Mackennal, to the S. of the altar, and the magnificent wrought-iron gates on the N. side. These were made by John Tresilian for the tomb of Edward IV (1461–83), which is in the N. aisle and from which they have been removed. Passing through the ambulatory behind the High Altar, the E. wall should be noticed, as it shows a blind arcade of E.E. arches dating from the reign of Henry III (1216–72) and was the W. wall of the chapel which he built. At the S.E. corner of the building is the Lincoln Chapel, containing the altar tomb to the Earl of Lincoln (1584). Proceeding W. along the S. aisle, notice a slab of black marble covering the grave of Henry VI (1422–61). Beyond (l.) the Oliver King Chapel (1489) which contains tombs of a Bishop of Exeter of that name and his family, the nave is once more regained.

The *Albert Memorial Chapel* is at the E. end of St George's. It has had a strange history. This was originally constructed by Henry VII to receive his tomb, but he changed his mind and was buried at Westminster instead. Given to Wolsey by Henry VIII, the cardinal's fall prevented his ever making use of it. Later, Charles I had also planned to use it, but it was desecrated by Cromwell during the Civil War. Used for a time as a Roman Catholic place of worship by James II, it again became disused, until Queen Victoria caused it to be enriched by Sir Gilbert Scott as a memorial to the Prince Consort, whose recumbent effigy by Triqueti lies before the altar, the Prince and Queen Victoria being actually buried at Frogmore (see p. 211). In the centre of the chapel is the monument of the Duke of Clarence (1892), brother to King George V, by Sir Alfred Gilbert, who designed the Eros fountain at Piccadilly Circus. The monument nearest to the door commemorates the Duke of Albany. Below the chapel is a vault containing the bodies of George III, George IV, William IV, Edward VII and George V, besides those of numerous other royal personages.

N. of the Albert Memorial Chapel is the *Dean's Cloister*, on the S. side of which is some beautiful E.E. arcading dating from the reign of Henry III. On the N. side is a Tudor window known as Anne Boleyn's window. To the N. of the Dean's Cloister is the *Canon's Cloister*, dating from the reign of Edward III.

The Middle Ward consists of the mound erected in Norm. times upon which stands the *Round Tower*. This may be ascended any time between April and Sept., and commands a magnificent view over the Thames Valley and the Great Park. In the tower hangs the great bell captured in the Crimean War and tolled only at the death of the Sovereign. The whole of the upper part of the Round Tower, which is such a very striking feature of the Castle, dates only from the reign of George IV, when it was added by the architect Wyatville to the original keep. From the flagstaff flies the Royal Standard when the Court is in residence.

To the N. of the Round Tower the Norman Gate leads to the *Upper Ward*. Here is the Great Quadrangle, on the S. side of which are the Visitors' Apartments, on the E. the Sovereign's private Apartments, and on the N. the State Apartments. In the quadrangle is an equestrian statue of Charles II. The *State Apartments* are shown during the absence of the Court, Fri. and Sun. excepted (adm. 1/-). To describe all the magnificent pictures and treasures contained there is outside the compass of this book. Readers are referred to the Official Guide to Windsor Castle and to the Guides in attendance, who conduct parties round. Mention should be made, however, of the *Queen's Dolls' House*, designed by the late Sir Edward Lutyens for H.M. Queen Mary, and exhibited at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, 1924–5 (adm. 6*d*.).

On the N. side of the State Apartments is the *North Terrace*, built by Queen Elizabeth and where she was accustomed to take exercise. This commands a fine view of Eton College and its famous playing-fields. This leads round to the *East Terrace*, with its beautiful view over the gardens. This terrace was made by Wyatville for George IV.

The *Home Park* lies to the N. and E. of the Castle. The public are admitted to that portion between the river and the Datchet road.

The *Great Park* is a vast tract of varied scenery, partly parkland and partly natural forest. Parts of it are open to the public. It is approached from Windsor by way of Park Street, from which the *Long Walk* is entered. This magnificent avenue had to be felled owing to the condition of the trees, but has since been re-planted. It extends southwards from the Castle for 3 m. as far as Snow Hill, where there is an equestrian statue to George III by Westmacott. This commands a very fine view of the Great Park with the Castle beyond. To the E. of the Long Walk, near Frogmore House, is the *Royal Mausoleum* (open only on Whit-Monday, 11–4). Here are the tombs of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort. To the S.E. of this are the *Royal Gardens* (open at certain advertised times). Near Bishopsgate, on the E. side of the Great Park, is the *Rhododendron Walk*, which is open to the public and is a magnificent sight when the shrubs are in bloom. At the S.E. corner of the Great Park is *Virginia Water*. Access to its shores is obtained from the London–Bagshot road near the *Wheatsheaf Hotel*. On the S. side of the lake are the artificial ruins constructed by Wyatville for George IV from pillars obtained from a Roman temple in

Tripoli. This artificial lake was constructed for the Duke of Cumberland (of Culloden fame) by the artist Thomas Sandby.

The town of Windsor (*Castle*, T.H., and *White Hart*, both No. 1) contains little of interest. In the neighbourhood of the Castle are a few picturesque old houses. The Town Hall, by Sir Christopher Wren, has statues of Queen Anne and her husband, Prince George of Denmark. The parish church was rebuilt in 1820-2. It contains some carvings on screen of the Royal Pew by Grinling Gibbons, and under the tower is a bust to Topham Foot (1712) by Scheemakers.

Route 24. Windsor to Finchhampstead Ridges via the Nine Mile Ride, returning through Bray, 43 m.

This is a pleasant round through the varying scenery of E. Berks. Start out from the Castle along the High Street, keeping the Town Hall and Parish Church on l. Turn r. into Sheet Street and then fork l. into King's Road. At the roundabout take the road for Ascot, which soon enters the Great Park by the Queen Anne's Gate. This commemorates the connection of that sovereign with Ascot, she having inaugurated the world-famous races there in 1711, hence the title 'Royal Ascot'. A beautiful stretch of the Great Park now follows; some of the oaks are noteworthy and have attained a considerable age. From the summit of the hill before leaving the Park a fine view back is obtained of the Castle.

Keep l. at the *Crispin Inn*, and beyond the next roadside inn, the *Duke of Edinburgh*, note a cottage on the r. bearing the inscription 'E.R. 1936', one of the few memorials left of Edward VIII's short reign.

On approaching Ascot, the course is on the l. The historic turf has seen many famous winners since 1711, but perhaps the most famous was the record-breaking 'Eclipse', bred by the Duke of Cumberland in 1764, which won a plate at Ascot five years later and whose marvellous career gave rise to the old saying, 'Eclipse first; the rest nowhere'. At the far end of the course, go straight over the cross-roads by the War Memorial, and shortly after crossing a dangerous railway bridge, bend l. A very straight road, characteristic of the Forest district, leads through some country very typical of all this region. Scattered pinewoods and regular plantations alternate with heath land, covered in places with silver birches and rhododendrons. Follow this for 2 m., at the end of which, bend back sharp r. along the road to Bracknell. Follow this for 1¾ m. and take the next road l. This is known as the *Nine Mile Ride* and in spite of its name is but 6½ m. long. For the whole of its course, however, it is practically straight and it is often mistaken for a section of the Roman road (known as the Devil's Highway) from London to Silchester in Hampshire. This, however, runs through the Forest on a course parallel to it, about 1 m. S. of the Nine Mile Ride. 1 m. along the road brings us to Caesar's Camp. This crowns a fir-clad hill, which lies on the S. or l. side of the road just opposite the point where a road branches off (r.) to **Easthampstead.**

(This village, 1 m. along the road, has a modern church which contains, however, some relics from its predecessor, including a Jacobean pulpit, a brass to Thomas Berwyk (1443), and the tomb of the poet Fenton, with an inscription by Pope, whose friend he was. The church also possesses four good windows by Burne-Jones.)

Caesar's Camp, in spite of its name, is pre-Roman in origin and probably dates from the early Iron Age. It was, however, very possibly adapted by the Romans as a defensive point in connection with the road to Silchester, as it commands a fine view over the wild forest country. A cottage now occupies the centre of the camp, but the banks and ditches which surround it may be clearly traced. Caesar's Camp is a suitable starting-point from which to explore the forest, for which a good map is necessary. It is intersected at intervals by long, straight rides, radiating in star-like formation from certain definite centres, hence the name Lower Star Post. This is the heart of the forest, where eleven tracks meet. Here formerly stood a gallows, upon which highwaymen were hanged. The forest was a notorious hunting-ground of these gentry, and even to-day is a very lonely tract of country.

Not long after leaving Caesar's Camp, the queerly-named *Who'd a Tho't it? Inn* is passed (r.), after which the railway and the main road from Wokingham to Camberley are crossed.

The modern 'bungaloid' village of California is now reached; and in the centre of it, turn l. and shortly r. for **Finchampstead** (18 m. from Windsor). This is an old village on the edge of the forest, but cultivated fields here take the place of heather and plantations. The church stands upon a curious knoll, believed by antiquaries to have been the site of a prehistoric camp. It is of Norm. origin and has an apse and an original window on the N. side of the nave. The brick tower, one of several in Berks, dates from 1720. Inside note a good Royal Arms inscribed 'C.R. 1660', a Norm. font and pillar piscina in chancel, a black marble tomb to Richard Palmer (1670), and a brass on the floor to Elizabeth Hynde (1580). Keeping the church on the r. continue down hill to the bottom, where turn l. and soon afterwards r. This leads along the well-known **Finchampstead Ridges,** now National Trust property, a fine stretch of common land dotted with clumps of pine trees at intervals, commanding wide-spreading views over the Blackwater valley into Hampshire. From the ridges the road descends gently down a magnificent avenue of wellingtonias. At the end of this turn l. into the main road and follow it for 4 m. to **Wokingham.** This is an old town, the approaches to which have been much marred by reckless ribbon development. At the Town Hall keep l. and immediately r. into Rose Street. This contains some old timber-frame and Georgian houses, and at the bottom of it is the Parish Church. This has been largely rebuilt, but retains its Perp. nave of noble proportions. In the S. aisle is an Elizabethan brass.

Return along Rose Street to the main street and turn r. into the Reading road. Follow this for 2 m. passing more dreary ribbon development and then turn r. into Watmore Lane for **Hurst,** which is reached in another 2 m. For the rest of the way back to Windsor, the route lies through pleasant pastoral scenery, well-wooded and containing many charming old farms and cottages. Hurst itself is a somewhat scattered village, the church, the almshouses and the old Castle standing together on some rising ground. The church has a good brick tower of 17th-cent. date, contemporary with the almshouses. It contains a Transition N. arcade and some extremely interesting furniture and monuments. Notable amongst these is that of Henry Barker, the founder of the almshouses, who died in 1651 and whose tomb in the chancel has a recumbent effigy guarded by a child at its head and a skeleton at its feet. In the N. chapel are various other monuments, and especially interesting is the one on the S. side to Richard Harrison and his wife (1684). He raised two troops of horse for Charles I in the Civil War at his own charge. During the Commonwealth his estate was 'much wasted' as the inscription states, but at the Restoration Harrison had his reward, being made a J.P. and chosen one of the 'Privy Chamber in Ordinary' to Charles II. On the opposite side of the chapel is a fine tomb, also of 17th-cent. date, commemorating the Savile family, with kneeling effigies in ruffs. Adjoining it is another tomb with brasses to Richard Ward, his wife and their fourteen children (1579), while on the wall to the W. of this is another brass, to Alys Harrison, showing a 17th-cent. lady lying in a fourposter bed, symbolising the fact that she died in childbirth. Among the interesting features in the church are a good timber roof, a very fine Elizabethan screen surmounted by the Royal Arms, and a Jacobean pulpit complete with hour-glass, dated 1636 and inscribed:

> As this glasses runneth,
> So man's life passeth.

After leaving the church, keep straight over the cross-roads and shortly afterwards straight over the next crossing, by a pond. In ¾ m. turn r. (**Ruscombe** is reached in 1 m. by turning l. It has a church with 17th-cent. brick tower and nave, Jacobean pulpit and 13th-cent. chancel with wall-paintings) and in ½ m. fork l., shortly afterwards turning l. In 1 m. turn l. again, and **Waltham St Lawrence** is soon reached. Turn l. at War Memorial and up the picturesque village street with its ancient cottages to the church and *Bell Inn*. The latter is a good example of a 16th-cent. house with overhanging timber-framed front. Opposite to it is the village pound, into which straying animals were formerly put until claimed. The church is chiefly Dec., but the two westernmost arches in the nave are Norm. There are various features of interest, notably the Royal Arms of Queen Anne, inscribed 'A.R.', and a monument with kneeling effigies of the Neville family (1573). There is an old yew in the churchyard, planted during the Commonwealth in 1655.

Return to the War Memorial and turn l.; in 1 m. is a fork, with a lodge and park entrance on l. This is **Shottesbrook**, the very fine church of which stands in the park. It was not built as a village church, but for a college founded in 1337 and suppressed in 1548, the buildings of which have been destroyed. The church, which is cruciform with central tower and spire, is an excellent example of the Dec. style. It contains a font of that period, a good deal of old glass, and beautiful sedilia and piscina in the chancel. The founder's tomb, with that of his wife, with fine canopies, is in the N. transept. Here are also some brasses, commemorating Lady

Margaret Pennebrygg (1401) and Richard Gyll (1511) who was 'Sergeant of the Bakehouse' to Henry VII and Henry VIII. In the nave is a much earlier brass, dating from c. 1380, with figures of a priest and a layman under a canopy. Shottesbrook House, adjoining the church, is an 18th-cent. house recast in the Tudor style in the early 19th cent.

Returning to the road and taking the l. fork, **White Waltham** is soon reached. The church is in a road to the r. at the far end of the village and adjoins the old Manor House. The church has been rebuilt, but outside it by the roadside are preserved the village stocks and whipping post. Keeping the aerodrome on the l., in 1 m. turn towards Cox Green. In ½ m. turn r. and shortly afterwards pass the 15th-cent. timbered manor-house of Ockwells on the r. This was originally the home of the Norreys and afterwards of the Fettiplace family. Another mile leads to Bray Wick, where there is a dangerous crossing over the Maidenhead–Windsor road. A short distance beyond is the village of **Bray** itself, where a turn to the r. should be taken upon entering the village, followed by the next turn l., in order to reach the church. This is famous throughout the English-speaking world on account of one of its incumbents, Simon Alleyn, who so categorically stated that

> Whatsoever King shall reign
> I'll be the Vicar of Bray, Sir!

The famous song is mistaken, however, when it mentions Charles, James, William and George as our kings, since Alleyn held the living in the far more dangerous Tudor period, when many of his contemporaries lost their lives for adherence to either the Catholic or the Protestant faith. Alleyn, however, managed to hold the living continuously during the first Reformation under Henry VIII, the counter-Reformation under Mary and the second Reformation under Elizabeth. The church has a handsome Perp. tower, but has been much restored. It contains a good Royal Arms of the early 17th cent. over the S. door, and a number of brasses, notably an interesting example of 1378, with figures of Sir John Foxley, in armour, and his two wives, which faces the S. door. On the N. side of the chancel is a fine alabaster monument to William Goddard and his wife (1609). He was the founder of the exceedingly picturesque Jesus Hospital, at the S. end of the village. These old red-brick almshouses, built round a quadrangle enclosing a garden, inspired Fred Walker to paint his celebrated picture 'The Harbour of Refuge'. Windsor is reached in another 6 m.

Route 24a. Windsor to Winkfield, Warfield and Binfield, returning via Waltham St Lawrence and Bray, 17 m.

This is a shorter variant of R. 17. As in that route to the *Crispin Inn*, where turn r. and over cross-roads by the Fleur-de-Lys. Shortly after, turn l. into road A 330 for **Winkfield.** The church here has a 17th-cent. brick tower and a remarkable timber arcade dated 'E.R.1592' and a repair dated 'V.R.1887'. Note Georgian Royal Arms over S. door.

Keep along road A 330, straight over next cross-roads, after which turn l. and shortly r. for **Warfield.** Here is a fine church, chiefly Dec. In the E. window is some old glass and in N. chapel a brass to Houmfrey Staunton (1592). Note fine Dec. sedilia and piscina in chancel and old Perp. screen across N. aisle. This formerly continued across chancel, but has been replaced by a modern stone screen.

Not far beyond church turn r., and later l. opposite Warfield Hall, a large Regency house in a park. Shortly after, at the *New Inn*, turn r. for **Binfield.** Pass the Manor House and pond on l. and at the *Stag and Hounds*, fork r. and at once turn r., into road A 3018, leading to the church, which, though restored, contains several features of interest. Of these, note Jacobean pulpit (1625) and hour-glass stand, and some brasses in the S. aisle known as palimpsests, because they have been re-used. They are hinged to show both their original side, part of a brass to a priest, and the re-used side, commemorating Richard Turner and his wife (1539). The poet Pope lived at Binfield as a child.

Take turn r. by church (A 3018) and in 1 m. turn l. at letter-box, continuing along road A 3018 to Shurlock Row, a small hamlet with brick church on r., where turn r. At the *Royal Oak Inn* keep straight over cross-roads to the War Memorial at **Waltham St Lawrence,** from which point Windsor is reached in 12 m. (see R. 23).

INDEX

Abingdon, 26, 27, 28, 32, 85–90
Abingdon Abbey, 27, 29, 72, 73, 83, 87–88, 102
Adderbury, 26, 129, 130, 131–2
Aldworth, 179–80
Akeman St., 25
Alchester, 25
Aldermaston, 170
Alkerton, 21, 125–6
Ambrosden, 111
Appleton, 27, 76
Ashampstead, 179
Ashbury, 79–80
Ashdown, 27, 28, 31, 80
Ascot, 212–3
Ascot-under-Wychwood, 147
Ascott House, 106
Assendon, 198
Asthall, 150–1
Aston, N., 57
Aston Rowant, 105
Aston, Steeple, 57
Aston Tirrold, 100
Aston Upthorpe, 100
Avington, 26, 168

Bablock Hythe, 73, 76
Bagley Wood, 49–50, 85
Bagshot Sands, 24
Balking, 84
Bampton, 72, 74–5, 151–2
Banbury, 26, 29, 32, 119, 127, 142
Banbury Cross, 119
Barford St John, 130
Barford St Michael, 130
Barton, Steeple, 58
Barton, Westcott, 58–9
Basildon, 27, 189
Beacon Hill, 105
Bear Wood, 191
Beaulieu (Hants), 78
Beckley, 22, 110, 112
Beedon, 93
Begbroke, 63
Benson, 97
Berks Downs, 23, 25, 28, 32
Bessels Leigh, 31, 77, 83
Bibury, 140
Bicester, 111
Binfield, 31, 218, 219
Binsey, 53
Bisham, 27, 194, 198
Bix, 187
Bix Bottom, 197
Black Bourton, 75, 152
Bladon, 66
Blenheim, 27, 31, 63–4
Blewburton Camp, 25
Blewburton Hill, 100
Blewbury, 26, 99–100
Blowing Stone, 81
Bloxham, 26, 129–30
Blue Pool, 178
Boar's Hill, 49, 51
Boarstall Tower, 111
Bodleian Library, 38, 42, 43, 47
Bosworth, 150
Botley, 72, 77
Boulter's Lock, 196
Bourton, Black, 75, 152
Bourton Magna, 121
Boxford, 166
Bradfield, 176, 178
Bray, 217
Brightwalton, 162
Brightwell Baldwin, 106
Brill, 110, 112
Brimpton, 170
Britwell Hill, 201
Britwell Salome, 201
Brize Norton, 151
Broadwell, 154
Broughton, 127, 129
Broughton Castle, 27, 29, 120, 128, 132
Broughton Poggs, 154
Buckland, 27, 78
Bucklebury, 24, 31, 161, 177

Bucklebury Common, 176
Bucklebury, Upper, 177
Burford, 26–7, 29, 31, 134, 139–40, 143–7, 150–1, 153–4
Burford Priory, 145
Burghclere Beacon, 170

Caesar's Camp, 213
Carfax, Oxford, 40
Carfax Conduit, 85
Cassington, 71
Catmore, 162
Caversfield, 26, 111
Caversham, 190
Chadlington, 147
Chalgrove, 29, 106
Charlbury, 63, 148
Charlton-on-Otmoor, 111–2
Charney Bassett, 27, 83
Chastleton, 27, 30, 137
Checkendon, 191
Cherwell, R., 22, 56–7, 119, 121
Chieveley, 162
Childrey, 82
Chiltern Hills, 23, 24, 25, 97, 104–5, 109, 186–7, 190–3, 197–201
Chinnor, 104
Chipping Norton, 26, 138–9
Chiselhampton, 106–7
Cholsey, 99–100
Christmas Common, 192, 200
Churchill, 139
Clanfield, 152
Claydon, 122
Clattercot Priory, 122
Clifton Hampden, 94
Cliveden, 196
Cogges, 27, 70
Cold Ash, 161
Coleshill House, 27
Colleges, Oxford:
  All Souls, 42
  Balliol, 45
  Brasenose, 41–2
  Christ Church, 43–4
  Corpus Christi, 42
  Exeter, 45
  Hertford, 46–7
  Jesus, 45
  Keble, 47
Colleges, Oxford:
  Lincoln, 41
  Magdalen, 43
  Merton, 42
  New College, 47
  Oriel, 42
  Pembroke, 43
  Queen's, 42
  St Edmund Hall, 43
  St John's, 47–8
  Trinity, 45
  University, 42
  Wadham, 47
  Worcester, 48
Combe, Berks, 167–8
Combe, Oxon, 67
Compton Beauchamp, 80
Cookham, 195–6
Cookley Green, 191, 199
Coxwell, Gt and Lt, 79
Crookham Common, 24, 160
Cropredy, 121–2
Crowmarsh Gifford, 98
Cuddesdon, 23, 102
Cumnor, 72–3
Cumnor Hills, 22, 32
Cumnor Place, 54
Cuxham, 106

Deddington, 131
Denchworth, 83
Devil's Highway, the, 25
Divinity School, 46
Ditchley, 27
Donnington Castle, 27, 31, 159–60
Dorchester, Oxon, 25, 26, 95–6
Dorne, R., 22, 58, 60
Drayton, Berks, 90
Drayton, Oxon, 122
Ducklington, 74
Dun's Tew, 60
Dyke Hills, 25

Eastbury, 164
Easthampstead, 213
Eaton, Wood, 113
Edgehill, 21, 29, 122, 123
Enborne, 166
Enborne valley, 157, 170
Enstone, 61–62
Evenlode, R., 22, 66, 147, 148

Ewelme, 23, 97
Eynsham, 71

Faringdon, 27, 29, 78
Faringdon, Little, 153
Farnborough, 162
Fawley, 198
Filkins, 154
Finchampstead, 214
Forest Hill, 31, 107
Frilford, 83
Fulbrook, 146
Fyfield, 27, 77

Garsington, 23, 101
Garston, E., 165
Glyme, R., 22, 58, 59, 65
Glympton, 59
Godstow Nunnery, 54
Goring Gap, 23, 180
Goring-on-Thames, 188
Greenham Common, 24
Greys Court, 27, 185
Grim's Ditch, 25, 187
Grimsbury Castle, 161

Hagbourne, E., 100
Hambleden, 184
Hampstead Norris, 180
Hamstead Marshall, 26, 30, 169
Hanborough, Church, 66–7
Hanborough, Long, 66
Hanney, E. and W., 83
Hanwell, 27, 121
Harwell, 32, 101
Haseley, Gt., 103
Hawk Stone, 25, 148
Headington, 107
Hendred, E. and W., 23, 92–3
Henley-on-Thames, 31, 183–4
Hermitage, 161
Heyford, 56–7
Hinksey, N., 52, 53
Hinksey, S., 51
Hoar Stone, 25, 62
Holton, 108
Hook Norton, 134–5
Horley, 123
Hornton, 124
Hungerford, 169
Hurley, 27, 31, 193
Hurst, 215
Hurst Hill, 53

Icknield Way, 25, 80, 100, 104, 190, 200
Iffley, 26, 48–9, 85
Ilsley, E., 93
Inkpen, 168
Inkpen Beacon, 24, 167
Islip, 28, 112

Jarn Mound, 52

Kelmscott, 32, 152
Kennet, R., 23, 159, 166–70, 173, 176
Kennington, 86
Kiddington, 59
Kidlington, 55–6
King's Sutton, 129
Kingston Blount, 105
Kingston Lisle, 81
Kintbury, 168

Lambourn, 26, 32, 164
Lambourn valley, 164–6
Langford, 153–4
Lechlade, 153
Leckhampstead, 162
Leigh, Bessels, 77
Leigh, N., 25, 68–9
Leigh, S., 70–1
Letcombe Bassett, 23, 163
Letcombe Castle, 25
Letcombe Regis, 23, 163
Littlemore, 30, 94
Lyford, 30, 83

Madmarston, 25, 127
Maidenhead, 196
Maidensgrove, 197, 198
Mapledurham, 27, 189–90
Marlow, Gt., 195
Marsh Lock, 184
Marston, 113
Mercia, 28
Milcombe, 134
Milton, Gt., 31, 102
Minster Lovell, 27, 31, 149–50, 186
Mongewell, 187
Moreton, N. and S., 100
Mortimer, 26, 172–3

Nettlebed, 187, 191, 197, 198, 199
Newbridge, 76
Newbury, 24, 28, 29, 32, 157–9
Newington, N., 24
Newington, S., 133–4
Noke, 112–3
Northmoor, 76
Nuffield, 187
Nuneham Courtenay, 85, 94

Ock, R., 90
Ockwells, 27
Osney Abbey, 29, 37, 44, 75
Otmoor, 22, 25, 109–12
Oxford, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 35–48

Padworth, 26, 171
Pangbourne, 189
Park Place, 184
Pishill, 23, 197
Port Meadow, 53
Port Way, 80–2
Purley, 31
Pusey, 84

Radcot Bridge, 29
Radley, 86
Ray, R., 22, 111–2
Reading, 29, 32, 173–6, 184
Reading Abbey, 27, 29, 30, 174–5
Ridgeway, the, 24, 25
Rollright, Gt., 135
Rollright Stones, 25, 135–6
Roman Villa, 25, 68
Rousham, 27, 56, 58
Ruscombe, 216
Russell's Water, 197
Rycote Park, 103

Salford, 138
Sandford-on-Thames, 32, 85, 94
Sarsden, 139–40
Shaw House, 27, 160
Shefford, E., 165
Shefford, Gt., 165
Sheldonian Theatre, 46
Shenington, 21, 125
Shillingford Bridge, 97, 99
Shiplake, 32, 190
Shipton-under-Wychwood, 146–7
Shirburn Castle, 27, 105
Shotover Hill, 22, 49–50
Shorthampton, 147
Shottesbrook, 216
Shrivenham, 79
Shutford, 126
Silchester, 25, 172
Snelsmore Common, 24, 162
Somerton, 57
Sonning, 190
Sparsholt, 82
Spelsbury, 62
Stadhampton, 106
Standlake, 75
Stanford Dingley, 178
Stanford-in-the-Vale, 84
Stanton Harcourt, 27, 73–4
Stanton St John, 31–2, 109–10
Steventon, 91–2
Stoke, N., 187–8
Stoke, S., 188
Stoke Row, 191
Stonesfield, 22, 67–68
Stonor, 23, 30, 198
Streatley, 188
Streatley Hill, 180
Studley Priory, 31, 110
Sulham, 189
Sunningwell, 30, 85–6
Sutton Courtenay, 27, 90–1
Swalcliffe, 126–7
Swerford, 21
Swinbrook, 151
Swyncombe, 199

Tadmarton, 25, 127
Taston, 62
Tew, Duns, 60, 132
Tew, Gt., 21, 60–1, 132
Thame (town), 103–4
Thame, R., 25, 96, 97, 102, 107
Thames, R., 22, 24, 28, 54, 73, 76, 85, 87, 94, 96, 98, 152, 153, 180–5, 187, 193–6, 205
Thatcham, 32, 177
Theale, 176
Three Mile Cross, 32, 173

Uffington, 23, 84
Ufton Court, 27, 171

Virginia Water, 211–2

Walbury Camp, 25, 167
Walks, 24
Wallingford, 26, 27, 28, 29, 98–9, 187
Waltham St Lawrence, 216
Waltham, White, 217
Wantage, 28, 82–3
Warborough, 97
Warfield, 218
Wargrave, 184
Waterperry, 108
Watlington, 28, 105, 192
Wayland Smith's Cave, 25, 80
Welford, 165
Wessex, 28
Westcott Barton, 58
Wheatfield, 26, 108–9
Wheatley, 50–1, 108
Whitchurch, Oxon, 189
White Horse, the, 25, 81
White Horse Hill, 23, 50, 80–1
White Horse Vale, 22, 23, 32, 80–4
Wickham, 26, 166
Widford, 151
Wigginton, 133
Windsor (town), 212
Windsor Castle, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 205–11
Windsor Forest, 24, 25, 214
Windsor Great Park, 211–2
Windrush, R., 22, 69, 74, 143, 145, 149–51
Winkfield, 218
Witney, 26, 32, 69–70
Wittenham Clumps, 23, 96
Wittenham, Little, 96–7
Wittenham, Long, 94–5
Wokingham, 214–5
Wolvercote, 32, 54–5
Wood Eaton, 113
Woodstock, 27, 32, 63–4
Woolstone, 80
Wootton, Oxon, 59–60
Wroxton, 26, 27, 31, 122–3
Wychwood Forest, 22, 29, 148
Wytham, 54
Wytham Hill, 22

Yarnton, 26, 27, 71
Yattendon, 180
Youth Hostels, 24

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